

IOWA BIRD LIFE

Spring 1994 Volume 64 Number 2



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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Spring 1994

Volume 64, Number 2

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FRONT COVER: Greater Prairie-Chicken, Cherokee, Cherokee County, February 1994. Photograph by Don Poggensee, Ida Grove, Iowa.

INSIDE BACK COVER: Editorial Staff, Subscription/Membership Information, Instructions to Authors, Officers, Board of Directors, Standing Committees.

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The IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *I.O.U. News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

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Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other materials relating to birds and bird finding in Iowa should be sent to the editor. Accepted manuscripts will generally be published promptly, depending on space available, with the following absolute deadlines: 15 November for the Winter issue; 15 February for the Spring issue; 15 May for the Summer issue; and 15 July for the Fall issue. Most manuscripts will be refereed. All material should be typed double-spaced or hand printed in ink on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Authors should pattern their style after a current issue of the journal. If you want more detailed guidelines or advice regarding the appropriateness of your topic for *Iowa Bird Life*, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the editor. Manuscripts may also be submitted on computer disk (Word 4.0 for Macintosh or compatible programs). Please submit one printed copy of the manuscript with the disk.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS OF IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

28-30 October 1994, Pella

19-21 May 1995, Ida Grove

8-10 September 1995, Davenport

FIELD REPORTS

Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the Field Reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to Jim Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014). An article describing the reporting process is also available.

Deadlines for receipt of field reports are as follows:

*Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb)--3 March (W. Ross Silcock, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653)

*Spring (Mar, Apr, May)--3 June (Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246)

*Summer (Jun, Jul)--3 August (James J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014)

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*Deadline for receipt of reports: 15 January. For forms and instructions write: W. Ross Silcock, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653.

IOWA BIRDLINE 319-338-9881

The birdline is a recorded summary of interesting recent bird sightings in Iowa. At the end of the report you can leave a message and report recent sightings. Be sure to give your name and phone number as well as the location of the bird and date seen. Call in as soon as possible after sighting a rare bird. Jim Fuller checks the reports daily and updates the recording on Monday, so make sure Sunday sightings are reported by Sunday night.

I.O.U. NEWS

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors (J. Hank and Linda Zaletel, 1928 6th St., Nevada, IA 50201).

MATERIALS AVAILABLE

The following materials may be obtained by writing the editorial office (Iowa Bird Life, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014):

*Order form for back issues of *Iowa Bird Life*: send self-addressed stamped envelope.

*Field Checklist of Iowa Birds--1992 Edition: 6 for \$1.00, postpaid. Also available at annual meetings.

REPORTING NEBRASKA BIRDS

Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of DeSoto N.W.R., should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005. Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa. The Nebraska Bird Line, available 24 hours a day, is 402-292-5325. Iowa birders are encouraged to report their Nebraska sightings to this number.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please send address changes/corrections to Pam Allen, 1601 Pleasant St., West Des Moines, IA 50265.

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IOWA'S BIRD DAY

HANK ZALETEL

At the start of the twentieth century, environmentally concerned citizens became alarmed at the wonted destruction of natural resources by industry, the lack of any regulation of these industries by any form of government, and the lack of any planning for the wise use of these resources.

Specifically, conservationists and bird watchers were outraged at the destruction of thousands of plumed birds for the millinery industry, the slaughter of ducks, waterfowl, and shorebirds by market hunters and poachers, and the lack of parks, sanctuaries, as they were called then, or wildlife refuges.

In 1894, in response to these concerns, Charles A. Babcock, superintendent of schools at Oil City, Pennsylvania, wrote J. Sterling Morton, then U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, the father of Arbor Day, and founder of the Morton Arboretum outside of Chicago, about the possibility of establishing a Bird Day for school children modeled on the activities of Arbor Day. Morton responded that "the love of feathered ornamentation so heartlessly persisted in by thousands of women, and the mania for collecting eggs and killing birds so deeply rooted in our boys are legacies of barbarism inherited from our savage ancestry." Morton reasoned that educational activities such as Bird Day designed especially for the young could develop a sentiment "so strong and so universal that a respectable woman will be ashamed to be seen with the wing of a wild bird on her bonnet, and an honest boy will be ashamed to own that he ever robbed a nest or wantonly took the life of a bird".

As a result, in July 1896, the U.S. Department of Agriculture issued Circular 17 which urged the observance of Bird Day throughout the country (Babcock 1901). Richard Barrett, Iowa Superintendent of Public Instruction, wrote to educators and students in March of 1899 that it gave him great pleasure to speak to them on Bird Day, which for that year replaced Arbor Day. He said: "I am sure you enjoy the sweet songs of the Robin and the Blue Bird and will find joy in learning of them and their many companions." He then asked students to write him about their Bird Day activities and to continue to beautify their school yards by planting trees, shrubs, and flowers (Iowa Dept. of Public Instruction 1899).

In succeeding years, Arbor Day and Bird Day were held simultaneously on a day decreed by the Governor. Likewise, each year the Department of Public Instruction issued a booklet containing exercises, songs, poems, and related materials (Figure 1) to aid teachers in getting the message to the students. An idea which was consistently stressed in these booklets but which seems quite alien to us today, was that of the economic importance of birds. A justification had to be made and proven that birds were beneficial and that they shouldn't be indiscriminately killed.

In a 1929 booklet, an article stated that "an elderly gentleman told me recently that when he was a boy over seventy years ago, he was encouraged to kill all birds because they were thought to be harmful to the farm crops, orchards, and gardens. But he now gives birds all the protection that he can because he has learned that birds are his best helpers in the continuous fight against weeds, rodents, and insects".

The article indicated further that Tree Sparrows eat more than 875 tons of weeds each winter in Iowa. Further, the Biological Survey in 1920 stated that one fifth of a crow's diet was insects including some of the worst pests with which the farmer has to contend--grasshoppers, caterpillars, and white grubs, and their parents. In summarizing, the 1929 pamphlet stated that "emphasis should be placed upon the

value of birds, the bird protection laws and the means of conserving bird life" (Iowa Dept. Public Instruction 1929).

In 1923, John G. Hempel, a representative from Elkader, introduced a bill in the legislature that separated the birds from the trees. The bill stated:

Section 1. Bird day--observance. The twenty-first day of March of each year is hereby set apart and designated as Bird Day. It shall be the duty of all public schools to observe said day by devoting a part thereof to a special study of birds, their habits, usefulness and the best means of protection. Should such date fall on other than a school day, such day shall be observed on the next regular school day. Approved April 20, A.D. 1923 (Whitney 1923).

The editorial Board of the Des Moines Capitol newspaper noted on 21 March 1924 that "the natural resources of the Iowa prairie was not exclusively sentimental; for while the bird friends of the pioneers were singing they were working constantly at essentials tasks of agriculture. Out of this background came the Iowa law which was passed last spring. There is no statute more deserving of popular support from the standpoint of preserving things that make life worth living in this great outdoor state" (Anon. 1924).

The Des Moines Audubon Society recruited members to appear at local schools and brought the Rev. George Bennett from Iowa City for a lecture that was open to the public.

Walter Rosene, Iowa Ornithologists' Union president, wrote to members in 1926 that "March 21 has been set aside by our legislature as Bird Day, and it is our duty to see to it that this is observed. Begin now to make plans to have talks on birds given before your local schools, Women's Clubs, Izaak Walton League chapter, and any other place where the subject of the protection, preservation, and study of birds may be brought before the public. Do not forget the radio" (Rosene 1926).

Iowa Ornithologists' Union members were active in promoting Bird Day. A 19 March 1933 Des Moines Register article noted for that year that Anna Palas would speak on WHO in Des Moines, Philip DuMont would speak on WSUI in Iowa City, and George Hendrickson of Ames would speak on WOI on the value of birds preying on insect life and on the large quantity of weed seeds eaten by birds (Anon. 1933).

Some 30 years later a Des Moines Tribune article noted that while Bird Day was still on the calendar of events for Iowa schools, few actually observed or carried out activities prescribed by law (Bleakly 1964).

Perhaps, Bird Day had, in no small part, helped to change America's thoughts and actions on birds and the environment in general. Laws were passed protecting migratory birds, hunting laws were passed restricting the number of birds taken and the season when they could be hunted. Law officers and game wardens were hired to enforce these laws and regulations. The State Conservation Commission was established in 1935 to coordinate environmental planning. By 1941, Iowa had 61 parks, preserves, and recreation reserves. On 10 April, 1974 section 279.39 of the Iowa Code (Bird Day) was repealed. Bird Day became a part of history (Faupel and Barry 1974).

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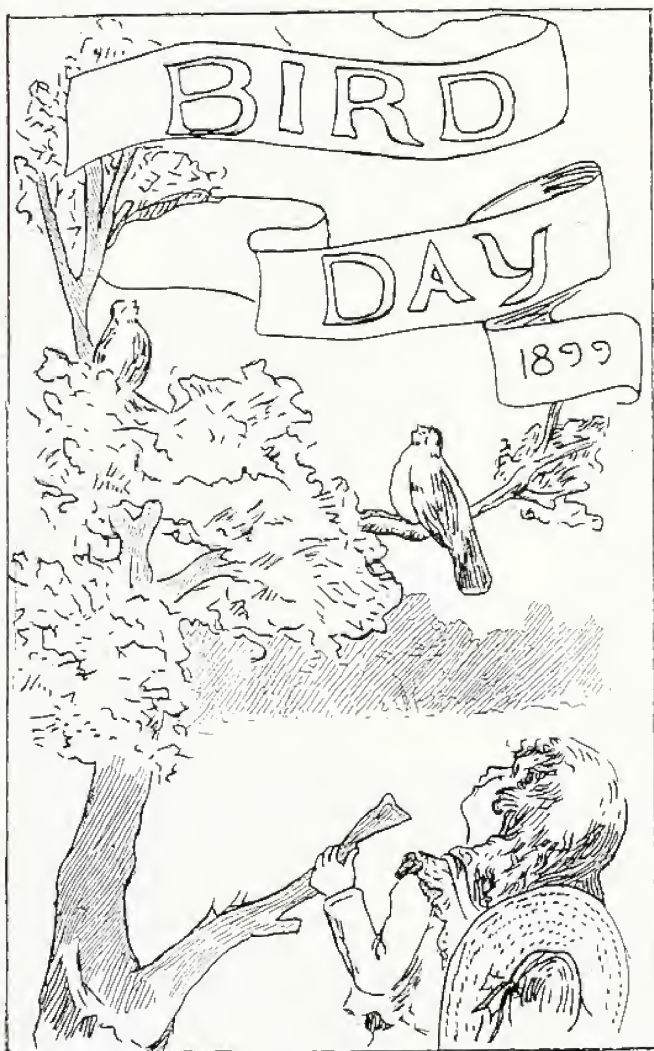


Figure 1. Drawing from cover of 1899 Bird Day booklet.

1993 IOWA SPRING BIRD COUNT

PETER C. PETERSEN

Spring bird censuses were held in Iowa from 1943-1946 (Grant and Grant 1943, Jones and Jones 1944, 1945, 1946). Gas rationing during World War II made it difficult to have good attendance at the spring meeting, so this activity was substituted. The rules were published prior to the first count (Grant 1943). The count was held on Mother's Day in 1943, with two or three days allowed for the three following years.

Partly in response to a budding national plan for spring counts, this idea was revived for 1993. The 1993 count in Iowa was held on 9 May (Mother's Day) as the national day conflicted with the long standing Illinois count to which many along the Mississippi River have a long standing commitment. Plans were not finalized until late winter, probably a major factor in the poor coverage.

The count was organized by counties, with only seven counties reporting. All but two reported more than 100 species with Louisa leading with 157 followed by Clinton with 143 (Table 1). Five counts were held in east-central Iowa, one in north-central Iowa, and one in northwestern Iowa. A total of 51 people participated, Scott County having 19 observers.

A total of 191 species were reported; this compares to 200 species on the 1946 count where 17 areas participated. Only 35 species were seen in all seven counties (Table 2), with Cattle Egret being the most surprising. Among the more unusual finds were Little Blue Heron in Clinton County, two Bufflehead in Cerro Gordo County, two Sandhill Cranes in Clinton County, Red-shafted Flicker in Cerro Gordo County, and Summer Tanager in Cedar County. The poor shorebird migration in spring 1993 was apparent on these counts; only 12 species were reported.

The committee, consisting of Bob Cecil, Ross Silcock, Francis Moore, and Pete Petersen (chair), welcomes comments regarding future counts.

Table 1. Count statistics for 1993 spring bird count.

County	Species	Obs.	Parties	Hours	Miles
Cedar	65	5	1	4	3
Cerro Gordo	126	8	6	24	122
Clay	92	3	2	12	116
Clinton	143	7	4	48	469
Louisa	157	3	2	20	190
Muscatine	103	6	4	10	111
Scott	127	19	9	40	348
totals	191	51	28	158	1358

Table 2. Summary of bird species seen during the 1993 Iowa Spring Bird Count.

Species	No. counts	Total seen	County with highest count	Number on that count
Pied-billed Grebe	6	34	Louisa	12
American White Pelican	2	20	Clay	19
Double-crested Cormorant	5	229	Clinton	225
American Bittern	4	8	Clinton	4
Least Bittern	1	1	Clinton	1
Great Blue Heron	6	122	Louisa	55
Great Egret	5	47	Scott	20
Little Blue Heron	1	1	Clinton	1
Cattle Egret	7	69	Cerro Gordo	47
Green-backed Heron	7	22	Clinton	6
Black-crowned Night-Heron	2	11	Louisa	10
Canada Goose	6	365	Louisa/Scott	80
Wood Duck	7	183	Clinton	46
Mallard	7	336	Scott	124
Blue-winged Teal	5	115	Clinton	46
Northern Shoveler	5	21	Clay	12
Redhead	4	12	Clay	5
Ring-necked Duck	3	11	Clay	6
Lesser Scaup	4	85	Clinton	75
Bufflehead	1	2	Cerro Gordo	2
Hooded Merganser	1	6	Louisa	6
Ruddy Duck	2	46	Clinton	45
Turkey Vulture	6	78	Louisa	31
Osprey	2	3	Louisa	2
Bald Eagle	1	1	Muscatine	1
Northern Harrier	2	3	Scott	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	2	Clinton/Louisa	1
Cooper's Hawk	3	5	Clinton/Louisa	2
Broad-winged Hawk	4	5	Cerro Gordo	2
Swainson's Hawk	1	2	Cerro Gordo	2
Red-tailed Hawk	6	37	Clinton	9
American Kestrel	5	40	Scott	18
Gray Partridge	4	6	Cerro Gordo/Clinton	2
Ring-necked Pheasant	7	105	Louisa	30
Wild Turkey	4	51	Scott	38
Northern Bobwhite	3	21	Louisa	15
King Rail	2	2	Cerro Gordo/Louisa	1
Virginia Rail	3	3	Cerro Gordo/Clinton/Louisa	1
Sora	5	66	Clay	33
Common Moorhen	1	4	Clinton	4
American Coot	5	141	Cerro Gordo	50
Sandhill Crane	1	2	Clinton	2
American Golden Plover	1	6	Cerro Gordo	6
Semipalmated Plover	1	8	Louisa	8
Killdeer	7	143	Louisa	53
Greater Yellowlegs	2	25	Clay	22
Lesser Yellowlegs	2	75	Clay	65
Solitary Sandpiper	2	10	Louisa	6
Spotted Sandpiper	3	12	Louisa	7
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1	3	Scott	3
Least Sandpiper	1	2	Louisa	2
Common Snipe	1	1	Clinton	1
American Woodcock	2	6	Clinton/Scott	3
Wilson's Phalarope	1	19	Clay	19
Ring-billed Gull	4	143	Scott	102
Herring Gull	2	17	Clinton	10
Caspian Tern	1	13	Scott	13
Forster's Tern	2	9	Cerro Gordo	5
Black Tern	2	45	Louisa	40
Rock Dove	7	341	Scott	167
Mourning Dove	7	438	Scott	136

Black-billed Cuckoo	3	4	Louisa	2
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	6	Louisa/Muscatine	3
Eastern Screech-Owl	3	5	Cerro Gordo/Scott	2
Great Horned Owl	4	13	Clinton	6
Barred Owl	6	24	Clinton	11
Common Nighthawk	6	81	Louisa	40
Chuck Will's Widow	1	1	Louisa	1
Whip-poor-will	2	12	Clinton	10
Chimney Swift	6	500	Scott	169
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	5	12	Cerro Gordo	4
Belted Kingfisher	6	29	Cerro Gordo	13
Red-headed Woodpecker	7	196	Louisa	71
Red-bellied Woodpecker	6	55	Scott	18
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	2	Cerro Gordo/Louisa	1
Downy Woodpecker	7	189	Scott	129
Hairy Woodpecker	7	24	Scott	9
Northern Flicker	6	133	Louisa	41
Pileated Woodpecker	4	8	Louisa	4
Eastern Wood-Pewee	6	22	Scott	10
Acadian Flycatcher	1	4	Muscatine	4
Willow Flycatcher	2	3	Louisa	2
Least Flycatcher	6	14	Cerro Gordo	4
Empidonax sp	2	7	Clay	4
Eastern Phoebe	5	22	Clinton	11
Great Crested Flycatcher	7	64	Louisa	16
Eastern Kingbird	6	149	Louisa	60
Horned Lark	5	88	Louisa	51
Purple Martin	4	111	Scott	56
Tree Swallow	6	341	Cerro Gordo	136
No. Rough-winged Swallow	6	410	Clay	240
Bank Swallow	5	230	Clay	170
Cliff Swallow	4	176	Muscatine	81
Barn Swallow	6	358	Scott	86
Blue Jay	7	451	Cerro Gordo	141
American Crow	7	479	Scott	165
Black-capped Chickadee	7	281	Scott	91
Tufted Titmouse	5	82	Scott	33
White-breasted Nuthatch	6	63	Clinton/Louisa/Scott	16
Brown Creeper	3	7	Louisa	5
Carolina Wren	4	17	Scott	6
House Wren	7	353	Scott	108
Winter Wren	1	1	Cerro Gordo	1
Sedge Wren	3	6	Cerro Gordo/Clinton/Louisa	2
Marsh Wren	5	22	Clay	9
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	6	26	Cerro Gordo	15
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	5	47	Clinton	11
Eastern Bluebird	5	39	Louisa	15
Veery	4	7	Scott	3
Gray-cheeked Thrush	3	11	Louisa	9
Swainson's Thrush	6	41	Scott	16
Hermit Thrush	2	3	Clinton	2
Wood Thrush	4	19	Scott	9
American Robin	7	1340	Cerro Gordo	613
Gray Catbird	7	266	Scott	80
Northern Mockingbird	3	7	Louisa	4
Brown Thrasher	7	154	Louisa	41
Water Pipit	1	1	Louisa	1
Cedar Waxwing	3	85	Cerro Gordo	50
Loggerhead Shrike	1	1	Louisa	1
European Starling	7	1690	Scott	563
White-eyed Vireo	1	2	Louisa	2
Bell's Vireo	1	7	Louisa	7
Solitary Vireo	3	13	Cerro Gordo	9
Yellow-throated Vireo	5	32	Clinton	10
Warbling Vireo	6	71	Scott	30
Philadelphia Vireo	3	4	Clay	2
Red-eyed Vireo	6	35	Louisa/Scott	10
Blue-winged Warbler	3	6	Clinton/Louisa/Scott	2
Golden-winged Warbler	1	2	Louisa	2

Tennessee Warbler	7	368	Louisa	150
Orange-crowned Warbler	4	18	Clay	12
Nashville Warbler	6	100	Louisa	51
Northern Parula	5	12	Louisa	5
Yellow Warbler	6	119	Louisa	40
Chestnut-sided Warbler	7	23	Louisa	8
Magnolia Warbler	3	56	Scott	44
Cape May Warbler	1	2	Louisa	2
Yellow-rumped Warbler	7	160	Clay	63
Black-throated Green Warbler	6	26	Scott	7
Blackburnian Warbler	5	9	Cedar/Louisa	3
Palm Warbler	5	78	Clay	32
Bay-breasted Warbler	5	42	Scott	24
Blackpoll Warbler	7	40	Louisa	12
Cerulean Warbler	3	4	Muscataine	2
Black-and-white Warbler	5	22	Clay	8
American Redstart	7	187	Clinton/Louisa	51
Prothonotary Warbler	2	7	Louisa	4
Worm-eating Warbler	2	2	Louisa/Muscataine	1
Ovenbird	6	13	Cedar	4
Northern Waterthrush	6	21	Louisa	6
Louisiana Waterthrush	2	2	Muscataine/Scott	1
Kentucky Warbler	3	5	Cedar/Louisa	2
Connecticut Warbler	3	3	Clinton/Louisa/Scott	1
Common Yellowthroat	6	225	Clinton	60
Hooded Warbler	2	2	Cedar/Clinton	1
Wilson's Warbler	4	8	Cerro Gordo/Clay	3
Yellow-breasted Chat	4	4	Cedar/Clinton/Louisa/Muscataine	1
Summer Tanager	1	1	Cedar	1
Scarlet Tanager	6	26	Clinton/Louisa/Muscataine	6
Northern Cardinal	7	547	Scott	162
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	7	184	Louisa	60
Indigo Bunting	6	169	Louisa	53
Dickcissel	5	123	Louisa	83
Rufous-sided Towhee	5	43	Clinton	17
Chipping Sparrow	7	214	Clinton	66
Field Sparrow	7	111	Clinton	32
Vesper Sparrow	5	36	Louisa	20
Lark Sparrow	2	54	Louisa	50
Savannah Sparrow	4	18	Cerro Gordo	7
Grasshopper Sparrow	6	46	Louisa	21
Song Sparrow	6	142	Scott	44
Lincoln's Sparrow	2	5	Clay	4
Swamp Sparrow	4	19	Clay	10
White-throated Sparrow	7	63	Cerro Gordo	24
White-crowned Sparrow	1	4	Clinton	4
Harris' Sparrow	1	2	Clay	2
Bobolink	5	16	Cerro Gordo	6
Red-winged Blackbird	7	3161	Cerro Gordo	806
Eastern Meadowlark	5	149	Clinton	63
Western Meadowlark	6	63	Cerro Gordo	16
Yellow-headed Blackbird	4	380	Clinton	200
Common Grackle	7	1872	Cerro Gordo	864
Brown-headed Cowbird	7	637	Louisa	200
Orchard Oriole	4	8	Clay	4
Northern Oriole	7	310	Scott	82
Purple Finch	2	6	Cerro Gordo	4
House Finch	6	132	Scott	56
Pine Siskin	1	5	Scott	5
American Goldfinch	6	357	Cerro Gordo	101
House Sparrow	7	1830	Scott	674

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50 YEARS AGO IN IOWA BIRD LIFE

The June 1944 issue was a special issue celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Sioux City Bird Club. The club, then the oldest bird club in Iowa and one of the oldest in the United States, had a long record of field work and sponsorship of lectures by noted visiting ornithologists. Much of the issue was an article by T. C. Stephens of Morningside College who reviewed the history of ornithology in the Sioux City region from the Lewis and Clark expedition to the 1940s. The article includes short biographies of several ornithologists and naturalists who lived in the area or visited the region and made notes on the birds they saw or collected. The most fascinating of these was Daniel H. Talbot who made a fortune by buying and selling government land script. He invested heavily in real estate and once owned several thousands acres along the Big Sioux River including much of what is now Stone State Park. Long interested in birds, Talbot made several expeditions to collect birds and also bought skins and eggs from professional collectors. His library and study skins eventually were donated to the University of Iowa. Besides photos of several of these individuals, the article also has a photo of three birders at their shack (a primitive dugout) in the woods near the Floyd Monument. The rest of the issue consists of two articles on the history of the Sioux City Bird Club, one by Mrs. H. M. Bailey covering the years 1913-1936 and a second by Zell C. Lee for 1937-1943. These provide a good summary of the club's activities over its 30-year history.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 1993-94

W. ROSS SILCOCK

This year there were 44 reporting localities (Figure 1). Absent from last year were Tristate (scheduling conflicts), Van Buren County (ditto), and Union County, while returning after breaks were Dubuque, Boone County, and Fort Dodge. New counts were at Walnut Creek, in the area of the new prairie refuge east of Des Moines, and Monona County.

Table 1 contains count data. High species count was at Davenport with 82 followed by Clinton with 76 and Muscatine at 75. There were several counts with 70 or more species, including Iowa City, Saylorville, Rathbun, and Shenandoah. The best count in the Northern Third was Spirit Lake at 49. Most birds were at Saylorville, where 30,000 of the 48,165 were Ring-billed Gulls, while at Shenandoah about 40,000 of the 44,281 were Snow Geese and Mallards; the Shenandoah total was actually rather low for that count. Noteworthy was the coldest count, at Decorah, where the high temperature was 8F. Wind is probably our worst enemy for CBCs, and Cedar Rapids had sustained winds at 30 mph all day (but still had a good species total).

This year's count was notable for its high species diversity (Table 2). The total of 139 is the second best ever behind the 141 in 1990-91. The all-time species total jumped by five, with some incredible (and well-documented) finds: a California Gull at Saylorville, Lesser Black-backed Gull at Iowa City and Cedar Rapids, Nashville Warbler at Omaha and Iowa City, Common Yellowthroat at Glenwood, and a Summer Tanager at Omaha. See below for more information.

REGULAR SPECIES

This was a strange early winter in that while waterfowl tended to leave the state, there were some really strange passerines hanging around. Although there were heavy snows in the north, especially northwest, prior to the count period, there was no really cold weather until later in the winter. The gull variety continues to increase, but we still did not have any winter finches. There is a ray of hope in the latter department however, as two Evening Grosbeaks were tallied, the first in four years.

Becoming conspicuous in recent years are wintering pelicans. This year 10 were found, at least some of which wintered (see Field Reports). Only 7 others have been recorded in the last 10 years. Great Blue Herons were much in evidence, the 152 counted being a 10-year high. An average year is 50 birds.

Two flocks of Tundra Swans were found in northeastern Iowa, totalling 21 birds. Usually these swans leave by late December, as in an average year only one or two are counted. A single, possibly wild, Mute Swan was reported, but no Trumpeter Swans were found this year.

Snow Goose numbers were below average, with no large concentrations in western Iowa, while Canada Geese continue to be abundant, although somewhat below the counts of recent years. Puddle ducks were generally down in numbers, notably Mallards; the total of 48,767 was only half the 10-year average. Diving ducks were also down, although not as much as dabblers. The most common diver was Common Goldeneye, which is normally outnumbered only occasionally by Canvasback. This was not a Canvasback year. Mergansers were plentiful, with more than 12,000 Commons counted, about the same number as the last four years, but about twice the 10-year average.

No surprise here: Bald Eagle continues to increase dramatically. By way of comparison, Red-tailed hawks were at a 10-year high of 1,347 birds, yet there were 1,516 Bald Eagles. Not only are Bald Eagles majestic, they are common, and have become a popular attraction to the non-birding public. Other buteos and the accipiters were in average numbers, except for the 82 Rough-legged Hawks, about half the 10-year average.

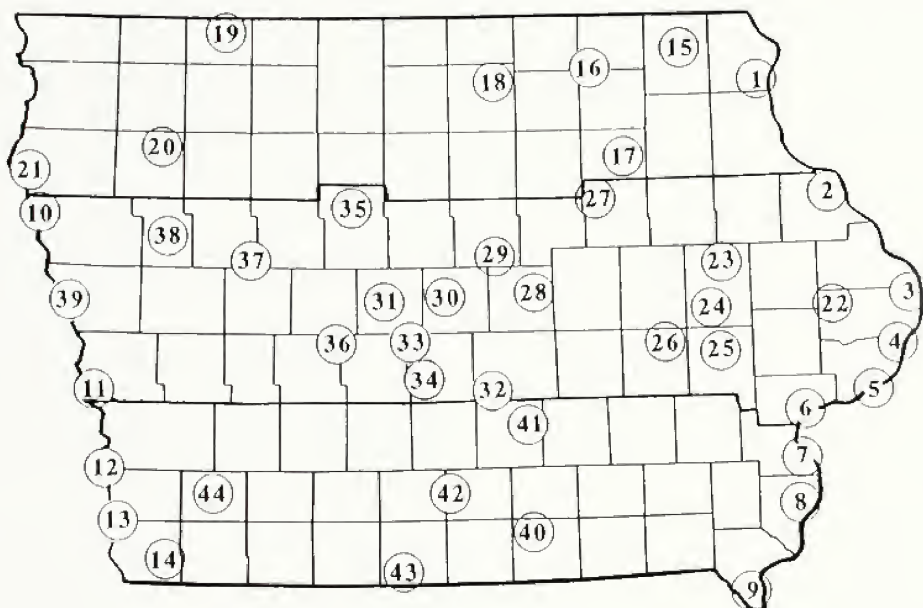


Figure 1. Locations of Iowa Christmas Bird Counts, 1993-94.

Gray Partridge and Ruffed Grouse both appear to be at a low ebb. Ruffed Grouse is usually found on only one or two counts, and so there may be sampling error involved, but Gray Partridge was not even reported from its traditional stronghold in northwestern Iowa. Most were found in eastern Iowa. Wild Turkey numbers have levelled off.

Killdeer were common, with a 10-year high of 48 found, while the expected number of Common Snipe were all concentrated in the lower Mississippi Valley.

No fewer than nine species of gulls were detected, a record, including CBC-first California and Lesser Black-backed and a second-record Mew. This was perhaps due to the presence of large numbers of the common species, including 30,000 ring-bills at Saylorville Reservoir. The phenomenon of formerly extremely rare gull species now occurring with regularity in Iowa is of great interest and joy to gull watchers. For the most part, it seems that these species are expanding their winter wanderings, although in the case of Mew and California gulls, perhaps our identification skills are improving.

Doves, owls, and Belted Kingfisher were present in average numbers, as were woodpeckers, the latter uncannily almost exactly at 10-year averages for all species.

The open-field flocking birds, Horned Lark, Lapland Longspur, and Snow Bunting, were found in low numbers, no more than one third 10-year averages at best. Perhaps heavy December snows pushed longspurs and larks, along with Rough-legged hawks,

south of Iowa. Snow Buntings probably toughed out the bad weather, but their numbers were below average.

The resident species of corvids and parids were reported in average numbers. However it was a great year for Red-breasted Nuthatch, at a 10-year high of 662 birds, about five times the 10-year high. These birds were found statewide; every feeder seemed to have a couple.

Table1. Site Data for 1993-94 Christmas Bird Counts

Location	Date	Total Species	Total Birds	Field Obs	Pts	Miles Hr	Car	Fl	Hr	MI	Pl	Hr	L	H	Snow Depth	Wind
MISSISSIPPI RIVER																
1. YellowRivFor	29Dec	48	2701	11	6	30	236	17	1	5	2	2	13	19	3	WNW 15-30
2. Dubuque	18 Dec	47	5265	21	8	46	240	21	0	0	2	1	30	37	0	W 5-10
3. Clinton	22 Dec	76	6192	61	3	30	310	6	3	39	0	0	23	28	0	NW 6-15
4. Princeton	23Dec	68	6185	9	5	33	360	6	5	71	3	5	10	21	0	W 5-15
5. Davenport	19Dec	82	18942	25	14	82	610	27	13	123	17	34	34	39	0	W 5-10
6. Muscatine	26Dec	75	10910	10	4	39	361	11	3	43	7	14	9	14	2	W 5-10
7. Oakville	17Dec	64	10782	6	3	28	271	80	3	46	1	2	39	43	0	SW 3-12
8. Burlington	18Dec	66	6958	14	5	50	324	38	3	15	8	32	28	36	0	NW 10-15
9. Keokuk	26Dec	69	27244	10	6	49	292	10	1	1	5	14	18	26	1	S 5-15
MISSOURI RIVER																
10. Sioux City	2 Jan	55	5755	26	11	66	370	46	5	5	4	22	4	28	6	S 5-12
11. DeSoto NWR	19Dec	56	17218	22	7	55	435	23	2	5	1	8	27	35	1	N 8-8
12. Omaha, NE	18Dec	66	19432	23	8	54	387	20	4	41	2	4	25	38	0	NW 5-15
13. Glenwood	2 Jan	34	1653	3	1	10	125	3	0	0	0	0	36	19	0	NW 5-25
14. Shenandoah	18 Dec	71	44281	14	5	39	313	22	1	3	17	39	32	35	0	NW 5-20
NORTHERN THIRD																
15. Decorah	27Dec	45	4595	14	5	37	320	13	1	5	2	2	-2	8	3	NW 5-15
16. Wapsi-WLine	31Dec	30	2503	8	6	20	154	14	0	0	17	25	20	35	3	SE 5-15
17. Bremer Co.	18Dec	36	2377	13	6	36	402	11	0	0	0	0	31	38	0	S 5-5
18. Mason City	18Dec	42	5565	16	8	62	352	25	1	1	3	3	28	33	0	NW 5-5
19. Spirit Lake	18Dec	49	7729	11	6	40	393	14	0	0	24	84	27	30	5	NW 8-14
20. Cherokee	18Dec	44	4454	11	5	32	330	7	1	5	4	7	29	35	4	NW 10-15
21. Westfield	3 Jan	30	665	2	2	16	106	9	1	10	1	1	1	17	7	SE 0-12
MIDDLE THIRD																
22. Lost Nation	20Dec	53	4899	15	6	43	451	10	1	15	6	1	29	34	0	NW 5-15
23. North Linn	29 Dec	47	4585	9	4	34	277	12	4	70	3	16	12	20	1	NW 20-35
24. CedarRapids	18Dec	63	14179	29	8	75	299	38	3	4	27	7	25	35	0	NW 30-30
25. Iowa City	19Dec	73	8019	32	92	58	572	23	2	22	9	27	33	45	0	NW 0-10
26. Amana	26Dec	41	1230	8	2	15	60	7	1	2	0	0	10	15	1	N 5-15
27. CedFalls-Wal	19Dec	45	4656	6	4	22	189	7	0	0	6	9	25	33	0	S 5-5
28. Marshalltown	18Dec	39	2498	18	6	41	389	6	0	0	3	18	32	39	0	SW 5-5
29. Eldora-Union	22Dec	35	1887	8	4	30	337	7	2	2	3	9	14	20	0	NW 10-15
30. Ames	18Dec	53	16499	39	14	87	294	66	1	1	13	7	30	30	0	W 10-20
31. BooneCnty	1 Jan	51	4582	28	14	83	461	52	1	0	12	55	21	31	2	N 10-20
32. Walnut Creek	2 Jan	33	3141	12	6	28	138	3	0	0	0	0	17	28	2	NW 15-15
33. Saylorville	19Dec	73	48165	23	11	91	598	44	1	10	0	0	28	42	0	W 5-15
34. Des Moines	26Dec	61	21197	10	6	43	427	21	3	11	5	18	10	15	1	E 5-10
35. Fort Dodge	1 Jan	26	877	8	4	19	140	8	0	0	4	16	-5	23	1	NW 15-25
36. Jamaica	21Dec	51	13519	10	5	41	454	12	1	25	1	8	16	35	0	NW 10-20
37. Sac County	18Dec	27	1047	9	5	20	125	20	0	0	4	8	31	36	0	W 5-5
38. Ida County	18Dec	41	2425	18	7	24	182	15	1	1	4	24	24	31	1	WNW 5-15
39. Monona Co.	19 Dec	34	446	8	3	19	142	2	0	0	2	10	26	33	1	W 5-15
SOUTHERN THIRD																
40. Rathbun	18Dec	73	7683	27	9	66	795	21	6	77	7	18	34	42	0	W 5-10
41. RedRockRes	19Dec	57	15627	9	5	23	85	15	2	5	1	2	23	38	0	NW 0-10
42. Lucas	21Dec	28	1392	6	3	16	70	10	0	0	0	0	34	39	0	NW 15-20
43. Lamoni	28Dec	36	2860	6	3	21	174	5	0	0	4	4	7	7	0	NW 0-5
44. Montgom.Co	18 Dec	53	3926	9	5	39	370	11	1	20	3	12	30	43	0	NW 5-15
TOTAL			396,745													

Carolina Wren was not affected by at least the early winter; the 62 counted were just short of the 10-year high of 65 last year. It will be interesting to see what the total is next year and whether this species survived the brutal late winter. Field reports suggest that at least in the lower Mississippi Valley they may have done so.

Table 2a. Christmas Bird Count Data, 1993-94

Location	Am	Do	Gr	Wh	Sn	Ca	Wo	Am	Ma	No	No	Am	Ca	Re	Ri	Le	Co
	Wh	Cr	Bl	Fr			Bl	Bl		Pi	Sh	Wi		Re	Ne	Sc	Go
	Pe	Co	He	Go	Go	Go	Du	Du							Du		
MISSISSIPPI RIVER																	
1. Yellow Riv. For.	1							7	583				1				
2. Dubuque									751								41
3. Clinton				3		345	3	23	1,008			9	2		10	6	255
4. Princeton	1	2	1	1		320		1	153			2			1		99
5. Davenport	1	2	20			699	2	23	2,703			5		1		2	17
6. Muscatine				1		755	1	14	358							8	7
7. Oakville			1	68		201		42	612	3		3					33
8. Burlington				42		40			21					8		12	21
9. Keokuk			1			173	1	2	336							1	957
Subtotal	3	6	135	1	0	2,533	7	112	6,525	3	0	17	4	9	1	11	29 1,430
MISSOURI RIVER																	
9. Sioux City								10	1,394					1			5
10. DeSoto NWR					4,781	450			1,926							3	52
11. Omaha, NE					765	545			1,020	2	1	1		1	1	20	321
12. Glenwood					5				340								
13. Shenandoah	1		5		15,050	93		5	25,093	8			3	1	10	23	9 3
Subtotal	1	0	5	0	20,601	1,088	0	15	29,773	10	1	1	3	2	12	23	32 381
NORTHERN THIRD																	
15. Decorah									2						1		
16. Wapsi-West. Line																	
17. Bremer County																	
18. Mason City						908		2	1,150								
19. Spirit Lake						1,292			10		1			12		70	26
20. Cherokee						12	4		110								
21. Westfield																	
Subtotal	0	0	0	0	0	2,212	4	2	1,272	0	1	0	0	0	12	1	70 26
MIDDLE THIRD																	
22. Lost Nation						98			19								
23. North Linn				2		170	1		66								
24. Cedar Rapids			1			796	3	4	1,222							7	118
25. Iowa City			1	3		7	379	1	612		5	1		1	1	4	7
26. Amana							1		3								
27. Ced. Falls-Waterloo						230			969							1	
28. Marshalltown						300			8								
29. Eldora-Union						55			1								
30. Ames						401			45			2				1	
31. Boone County																	
32. Walnut NWR						37			8								
33. Saylorville Res.	1	1			24	2,565	2	7	3,023	4			1			7	237
34. Des Moines				3	2	656	1	3	1,042		8	2	1		1	3	3
35. Fort Dodge																	
36. Jamaica				4	26	8,000		6	1,500	2		3					
37. Sac County						28											
38. Ida County					14	198			175	1							
39. Monona County					1	119			5								
Subtotal	0	3	6	7	74	14,033	7	21	8,698	7	13	8	2	1	0	2	23 365
SOUTHERN THIRD																	
40. Rathbun	1	6	6	2	26	800		8	980					2	11	40	60
41. Red Rock Res.	5	1				330		1	1,387							1	44
42. Lucas						94											
43. Lamoni						902			127								
44. Montgomery Co.					200	2			5			8					
Subtotal	6	7	6	2	226	2,128	0	9	2,499	0	0	8	0	0	2	11	41 104
TOTAL																	
	10	16	152	10	20,901	21,994	18	159	48,767	20	15	34	9	12	27	48	195 2,306
	Am	Do	Gr	Wh	Sn	Ca	Wo	Am	Ma	No	No	Ga	Am	Ca	Re	Ri	Le
	Wh	Cr	Bl	Fr	Go	Co	Du	Bl		Pi	Sh	Wi				Ne	Sc
	Pe	Co	He	Go			Du									Du	Go

Table 2b. Christmas Bird Count Data, 1993-94

Location	Ho		Co Me	Re		Sh		Co		No	Re		Ro		Ri		No	Am
	Bu	Me		Br	Ba	Ha	Ha	Ha	Go		Sp	Ha	Ta	Le	Am	Ne		
MISSISSIPPI RIVER																		
1. Yellow Riv. For.		1		28		53	1		1					56	11	1		140
2. Dubuque	4					48	1	1	2			1		52	5	24		140
3. Clinton				503	6	101	1	3	2					19	2	9		2
4. Princeton	3			55		90	1	1	2			1		27	2	16		33
5. Davenport	1			61	2	90			3	1		2		60	2	57		14
6. Muscatine				50		138	3	1	5	1		1		38	5	15		5
7. Oakville				2		167	1		1					30	1	10		22
8. Burlington	8			40		66	3	1						52	5	25		7
9. Keokuk	5	1		80		399	1	1	1					35	2	12		1
Subtotal	21	2		819	8	1,152	12	11	15	1	0	5		369	35	169		54
MISSOURI RIVER																		
9. Sioux City				2		6		5	2					27	3	5		110
10. DeSoto NWR		1		99		17		1						37	2	32		76
11. Omaha, NE		1		139		23	1	1						47		20		1
12. Glenwood						17	4							15		7		5
13. Shenandoah				31		57	4		1					32	1	41		60
Subtotal	0	2		271	0	120	9	7	3	0	0	0		158	6	105		252
NORTHERN THIRD																		
15. Decorah						23	2	1					1	104	11	3		10
16. Wapsi-West. Line														8				98
17. Bremer County						2	1	1						5		18		12
18. Mason City	1											1		24		2		18
19. Spirit Lake		2		92	1	3												146
20. Cherokee						11		1						19	2	10		61
21. Westfield						1	1							12		3		183
Subtotal	1	2		92	1	40	4	3	0	0	1	1		172	13	36		528
MIDDLE THIRD																		
22. Lost Nation						31	5		3	1				48	8	36		18
23. North Linn						10	2					1		21	4	4		122
24. Cedar Rapids		1		3		10						1		48	1	20		13
25. Iowa City		2		518	2	53		2		1				52	5	9		6
26. Amana						4						1		9	1	5		14
27. Ced. Falls-Waterloo						2								10	1	3		3
28. Marshalltown						2								9		11		18
29. Eldora-Union						1	1							24		4		14
30. Ames						3		2						19		13		43
31. Boone County						5	1		1		2			35	2	6		38
32. Walnut NWR						1								13		3		9
33. Saylorville Res.	4	3	2,500	3	19		2	2	1	1				68		32		33
34. Des Moines				5		9			4					26		16		1
35. Fort Dodge						1								4		1		
36. Jamaica				2		2		2						26	1	15		23
37. Sac County						4								6		1		1
38. Ida County						3		1			1			24		6		366
39. Monona County				2		1	1	1						6				2
Subtotal	6	4	3,030	5	161	10	10	10	3	6	1		448	23	185		712	239
SOUTHERN THIRD																		
40. Rathbun		1	1	400		5	5	1	1					70	1	37		10
41. Red Rock Res.		2	8,250			38		1	1					29		7		4
42. Lucas						10								22		9		1
43. Lamoni						1								29	3	14		1
44. Montgomery Co.				2		2				2				50	1	28		30
Subtotal	1	3	8,652	0	43	18	2	2	2	0	0		200	5	95		46	77
TOTAL																		
	29	13	12,864	14	1,516	53	33	30	6	7	7	1,347	82	590	1,592	698	261	35

Bu Ho Co Re Ba No Sh Co No Ac Re Re Ro Am Ri Wi No Am
Me Me Br Ea Ha Ha Ha Ha Go Sp Sh Ta Le Ke Ne Tu Bo Co
Me Ha Ha Ha

Table 2c. Christmas Bird Count Data, 1993-94

Location	Co Ki	Sn	Ri Bi Gu	He Gu	Gl Gu	Ro Do	Mo Do	Ea Ow	Gr Ow	Sn Ow	Ba Ow	Ea Ow	Lo Ow	Sh Ow	No Ow	Be Ki	Re Wo	Re Wo	Ye Sa
MISSISSIPPI RIVER																			
1. Yellow Riv. For.		1				46	21	2			1					1	6	48	
2. Dubuque			234			850	83	3		1						4	3	29	
3. Clinton	10	1	331	179		85	25	6	11	4	1					1	1	35	4
4. Princeton	12	3	55	27		261	91	6	15	2						3	19	33	2
5. Davenport		1	721	229		1,239	344	7	18	8						7	7	63	1
6. Muscatine	2	1	7	16		384	288	4	5	4	1					5	12	62	6
7. Oakville	4	2	209	5		219	44	4	7	3				1		4	52	38	
8. Burlington	8	15	766	2		446	49	1	1	3				1		4	18	41	
9. Keokuk	3		286	41		213	34	2	4	2	1			4		4	8	27	
Subtotal	39	24	2,609	499	0	3,743	979	32	64	2	27	2	4	2	33	126	376	13	
MISSOURI RIVER																			
9. Sioux City						344	3	3	2			1				2		24	
10. DeSoto NWR						178	1	4	2									62	2
11. Omaha, NE			125	4		88	2	7	2							4		70	1
12. Glenwood						86			2									10	
13. Shenandoah			1	1		35	23	1	4	1	2	16	2			3	2	22	
Subtotal	0	0	126	5	0	731	29	15	12	1	2	17	2	0	9	2	188	3	
NORTHERN THIRD																			
15. Decorah						271	20	5	1							7	5	43	1
16. Wapsi-West. Line						54	8		1	1								15	
17. Bremer County						188	7		4		2					1	22	13	
18. Mason City						322	28	1	2	1	2					2	1	15	
19. Spirit Lake			2	29	1	39	3		4							1	1	15	
20. Cherokee						210		2	5							1		18	
21. Westfield						26			3							1		9	
Subtotal	0	0	2	29	1	1,110	66	8	20	2	4	0	0	0	13	29	128	1	
MIDDLE THIRD																			
22. Lost Nation						327	50	2	4		4	2		1	1	35		24	
23. North Linn						20	67		1	2						2	6	19	1
24. Cedar Rapids			349	71		1,812	269	1	11	8						11	14	50	1
25. Iowa City	2		1,433	129	1	172	59	2	10		6		1	1	5	10		37	1
26. Amana						15	30	3	9		2				1	2	10	20	
27. Ced. Falls-Waterloo						165	5	1	3		1	3	2	1	2	5		11	
28. Marshalltown						181	12		1							1	5	11	
29. Eldora-Union						103		1	1								5	19	
30. Ames						293	18	2	3		4	1	1			8	2	61	
31. Boone County						250	7		2		2			1		26	106	1	
32. Walnut NWR						4	1											6	
33. Saylorville Res.			30,000	2,500	1	292	1	1	9		7	2	4			7	5	53	
34. Des Moines	1			16		144	93		1	5						4		29	1
35. Fort Dodge						2											4	6	
36. Jamaica						132	6	4	9		4					3	8	27	
37. Sac County						61		1										5	
38. Ida County						39	8	1	1			1				1		1	
39. Monona County						4										1		5	
Subtotal	3	0	31,782	2,716	2	4,016	626	19	65	0	45	9	8	5	48	135	490	5	
SOUTHERN THIRD																			
40. Rathbun	2		465	17		199	1	2	3		7	1				1	41	25	
41. Red Rock Res.	4		1,729	2,392	2	7			3		4					1	1	15	
42. Lucas									2								12	12	
43. Lamoni						15	3		2								13	25	
44. Montgomery Co.						108		3	5		1	1						9	2
Subtotal	6	0	2,194	2,409	2	329	4	5	15	0	12	1	1	0	2	67	86	2	
TOTAL																			
	48	24	36,713	5,658	5	9,929	1,704	79	176	5	90	29	15	7	105	359	1,268	24	
	Ki	Co	Ri	He	Gl	Ro	Mo	Ea	Gr	Sn	Ba	Lo	Sh	No	Be	Re	Re	Ye	
	Sn	Bi	Gu	Gu	Do	Do	Do	Sc	Ho	Ow	Ow	Ea	Ea	Sa	Ki	He	Be	Be	
			Gu					Ow	Ow			Ow	Ow	Ow		Wo	Wo	Sa	

Table 2d. Christmas Bird Count Data, 1993-94

Location	Do Wo	Ha Wo	No Fl	Pi Wo	Ho La	Bl Ja	Am Cr	Bl Ca Ch	Tu Ti	Re Br Nu	Wh Br Nu	Br Cr	Ca Wr	Wi Wr	Go Ki	Ru Cr Ki
MISSISSIPPI RIVER																
1. Yellow Riv. For.	33	11	2	6	23	88	151	119	3	12	51	2		2		
2. Dubuque	57	9	4	3	8	131	258	221	44	6	59	2				
3. Clinton	38	11	14	1	1	156	276	119	31	12	51	9	6	1	13	
4. Princeton	71	19	24		20	137	332	164	20	49	29	14	3	1	6	
5. Davenport	131	29	31	4	2	247	1,442	640	64	26	173	48	10	1	9	4
6. Muscatine	105	25	33	2	204	210	197	373	79	5	166	2	3	2	3	1
7. Oakville	54	14	77	10	5	160	5,620	160	28	10	49	2	2		11	
8. Burlington	55	11	37	2	24	143	688	132	31	5	59	5	7			
9. Keokuk	40	15	19	1	48	111	20,000	110	38	10	17	4	10		3	
Subtotal	584	144	241	29	335	1,383	28,964	2,038	338	135	654	88	41	7	45	5
MISSOURI RIVER																
9. Sioux City	93	32	82		35	54	413	272		21	92	14			2	
10. DeSoto NWR	106	4	160		101	116	139	255	5	12	61	5			7	
11. Omaha, NE	64	11	91			49	230	318	28	8	74	8	4		10	
12. Glenwood	21	1	14			34	158	37	5	5	15	1				
13. Shenandoah	30	9	24		1	114	22	57	1	19	29				3	
Subtotal	314	57	371	0	137	367	962	939	39	65	271	28	4	0	22	0
NORTHERN THIRD																
15. Decorah	31	18	4	5	8	198	896	210	13	4	61	3			1	
16. Wapsi-West. Lir	30	8	1		331	152	36	160		11	59					
17. Bremer County	18	10	3	2		91	168	48	1	20	2				3	
18. Mason City	49	17	4			79	901	266		9	75	1				
19. Spirit Lake	72	36	1		167	34	52	239		27	102	7				
20. Cherokee	51	13	6		9	79	287	129		18	34	3			3	
21. Westfield	14	6	5		68	3	11	42			17	6			2	
Subtotal	265	108	24	7	583	636	2,351	1,094	13	70	368	22	0	0	9	0
MIDDLE THIRD																
22. Lost Nation	73	5	11			173	301	174	31	35	56	12			10	
23. North Linn	45	8	12		24	62	201	156	26	22	25	7				
24. Cedar Rapids	176	21	15	1	1	211	1,584	549	102	48	148	8	6		32	1
25. Iowa City	87	13	20			143	693	297	32	47	85	8	9	1	6	1
26. Amana	25	4	2		30	60	30	70	2	3	35				1	
27. Ced. Falls-Wate	31	11	6	1		42	1,323	74		9	22	1			2	
28. Marshalltown	38	8	2		1	103	167	73	9	2	44	1	1		2	
29. Eldora-Union	18	5	3			55	233	59		3	27					
30. Ames	106	14	12		38	120	8,500	358	10	79	142	8		1		
31. Boone County	105	48	6	1	16	117	266	411	48	35	164	7		1	2	
32. Walnut NWR	24	9	7		24	26	322	50	4		13	2				
33. Saylorville Res.	86	30	36		1	109	333	289	8	35	85	1			15	1
34. Des Moines	82	24	5	1	4	53	11,350	167	8	9	70	4		1	7	
35. Fort Dodge	5	6	1			7	117	33		5	22					
36. Jamaica	36	8	6		3	71	56	113	4	4	61	3			1	
37. Sac County	33	6	1			30	52	79	1	3	23					
38. Ida County	18	4	6		1	56	243	42		32	20					
39. Monona County	7		9		1	28	83	22		1	7	1				
Subtotal	995	224	160	4	144	1,466	25,854	3,016	285	372	1,049	63	16	4	78	3
SOUTHERN THIRD																
40. Rathbun	42	18	24			320	343	127	20	22	33	1			12	
41. Red Rock Res.	21	4	7		3	42	259	38	7	2	23	1	1	1	8	
42. Lucas	28	3	13			70	69	44	14		25					
43. Lamon	17	3	22			148	36	52	11	6	17					
44. Montgomery Cc	33	3	2		7	99	25	148	4	25	74	4				
Subtotal	141	31	68	0	10	679	732	409	56	55	172	6	1	1	20	0
TOTAL	2,299	564	864	40	1,209	4,531	58,863	7,496	731	697	2,514	207	62	12	174	8
	Do Wo	Ha Wo	No Fl	Pi Wo	Ho La	Bl Ja	Am Cr	Bl Ca Ch	Tu Ti	Re Br Nu	Wh Br Nu	Br Cr	Ca Wr	Wi Wr	Go Ki	Ru Cr Ki

Table 2e. Christmas Bird Count Data, 1993-94

Location	Ea Bl	He Th	Am Ro	Br Th	Ce Wa	No Sh	Lo Sh	Sh Sp	Eu St	Ye Ru Wa	No Ca	Ru Si To	Am Tr Sp	Fo Sp	So Sp	Sw Sp	Wh Th Sp	Wh Cr Sp
MISSISSIPPI RIVER																		
1. Yellow Riv. For.						1				84	161		124					
2. Dubuque				1						828	93		8		8			
3. Clinton				2	15					737	1	168	368		12	3	1	
4. Princeton	1		109		39					755	184		488	1	37	10	4	10
5. Davenport			42	1	50					4,155	699		226	1	62	4	15	1
6. Muscatine	5		74		47		1			2,268	1	466	1,085		54	15	13	1
7. Oakville	7		66		104		2			658		178	741	2	27	2		1
8. Burlington	19		58		318			1		1,384	2	174	187		25	2	8	
9. Keokuk	14		52		2					1,513	14	219	304	1	16	2	2	
Subtotal	46	0	404	1	575	1	3	1	12,382	18	2,342	0	3,531	5	241	38	43	13
MISSOURI RIVER																		
9. Sioux City	20		154		131	1				1,000		82	1	320		5	11	2
10. DeSoto NWR	35	1	153		168	1				5,667	1	87	2	846		5		4
11. Omaha, NE	16	1	199		169		1			7,505		131		70		1	1	1
12. Glenwood			99		21					261		100		91			5	
13. Shenandoah	3		275		113		2			462		127	1	1,467		2		8
Subtotal	74	2	880	0	602	2	3	0	14,895	1	527	4	2,793	0	13	11	20	1
NORTHERN THIRD																		
15. Decorah					40	2				435		153		201				
16. Wapsi-West. Line										187		55		233				1
17. Bremer County						1				610		37		292		2		
18. Mason City					1					344		46		273		4		1
19. Spirit Lake				1	4	1				3,555		10		6				
20. Cherokee			1	1	28	5				1,646		10		92		1		3
21. Westfield		1	1							115		2		45		2		
Subtotal	0	1	2	2	73	9	0	0	6,892	0	313	0	1,142	0	9	0	5	0
MIDDLE THIRD																		
22. Lost Nation	6	1	1		54		1			1,311		190		327		5	3	2
23. North Linn			103		406		1			1,543		189		198		1		
24. Cedar Rapids	1		25	3	121					1,430		392		851	1	26	6	6
25. Iowa City	1		7		416					1,002		233		451		26	3	1
26. Amana	2									40		80		250		1		
27. Ced. Falls-Water				2	75	1				809		53		174				1
28. Marshalltown			41		52					535		70		133			2	
29. Eldora-Union			11		8	1				274		49		188		1		1
30. Ames	3		254		138	1				2,750		167		509		4	11	
31. Boone County	4		2		11					602		187	1	232		1	1	5
32. Walnut NWR					25		1			460		146		804		1	1	
33. Saylorville Res.			5		288	3				3,318	3	218	1	648		34	3	5
34. Des Moines			20		23		1			5,600	2	142		464		6		5
35. Fort Dodge										162		10		18	1	10		
36. Jamaica			7		215	3				1,292		89		403		8	1	
37. Sac County			4			1				372		20				1		
38. Ida County			2		11	1				393		20		239		5		
39. Monona County	7				1					131		6		17		4		
Subtotal	24	1	484	3	1,844	11	2	2	22,024	5	2,261	2	5,906	2	134	18	38	4
SOUTHERN THIRD																		
40. Rathbun	2		12		100		1	1		850		94		707		9	11	2
41. Red Rock Res.	7		60		15					586		20		39		2		1
42. Lucas	4		12		34		1			70		24		401		16		
43. Lamoni			1		5					183		16		338				
44. Montgomery Cc	11		9		49					903		77		395		1		1
Subtotal	24	0	94	0	203	0	2	1	2,592	0	231	0	1,880	0	28	11	2	2
TOTAL	168	4	1,864	6	3,297	23	10	4	58,785	24	5,674	6	15,252	7	425	78	108	20
	Ea Bl	He Th	Am Ro	Br Th	Ce Wa	No Sh	Lo Sh	Sh Sp	Eu St	Ye Ru Wa	No Ca	Ru Si To	Am Tr Sp	Fo Sp	So Sp	Sw Sp	Wh Th Sp	Wh Cr Sp

Table 2f. Christmas Bird Count Data, 1993-94

Location	Ha Sp	Da Ey Ju	La Lo	Sn Bu	Re Wi Bl	Me Sp	Ru Bl	Br Bl	Co Gr	Br He Co	Pu Fi	Ho Fi	Co Re	Pl Si	Am Go	Ho Sp	Eu Tr Sp
MISSISSIPPI RIVER																	
1. Yellow Riv. For.		363		6							23	2		1	149	264	
2. Dubuque		180			24						25	43		11	160	867	
3. Clinton		227			1		1		4	1	16	2		12	112	750	
4. Princelon		471			1				3	1	2	91		2	73	1,174	
5. Davenport		709			811		50	2	10	30	11	252		40	146	2,363	
6. Muscatine		1,029	146	8	5				3	29	34	154		55	192	1,976	1
7. Oakville		495			1				5		14	1			54	520	2
8. Burlington		724			6				8	1	2	69	10	28	140	808	60
9. Keokuk		597			1				4		27	59	1	7	214	1,115	5
Subtotal	0	4,795	146	14	850	0	51	2	37	62	154	673	11	156	1,240	9,637	68
MISSOURI RIVER																	
9. Sioux City	3	164			15	8	1		6		4	140		170	117	322	
10. DeSoto NWR	12	375			149	6			2	23	3	21		6	97	627	
11. Omaha, NE	1	226			6,000	6			201	2	12	13		12	128	530	
12. Glenwood	2	91									2	1		4	101	92	
13. Shenandoah	33	288			122	25			11	1		89		30	63	1,113	
Subtotal	51	1,144	0	0	6,286	45	1	0	220	26	21	264	0	222	506	2,684	0
NORTHERN THIRD																	
15. Decorah		285									21	97		2	137	1,189	
16. Wapsi-West. Line		198	75	76							23	28	4	5	165	441	
17. Bremer County		128			1				9			5			35	613	
18. Mason City	4	151			203			2	43	1	8	48			79	471	
19. Spirit Lake		62		196				4	2		26	12		2	79	589	
20. Cherokee	2	132					2	2			23	42	1	93	91	1,173	
21. Westfield		18		1		2									10	55	
Subtotal	6	974	75	273	204	2	2	6	56	1	101	232	5	102	596	4,531	0
MIDDLE THIRD																	
22. Lost Nation		276			6				1		2	18		2	38	1,009	
23. North Linn		269					2		1		25	9		2	29	657	
24. Cedar Rapids		722							2	2	3	1,172		11	188	1,429	
25. Iowa City		287				1				26	29	21	32	4	92	421	
26. Amana		200									12	10		1	50	150	
27. Ced. Falls-Waterlox		107							2	25	3	116		6	21	325	
28. Marshalltown		140									8	32		6	17	446	
29. Eldora-Union		99							7			49		4	108	447	
30. Ames		506			14	1			10	3	3	127	5	54	158	1,469	
31. Boone County	2	482		1	3	6			10		38	12		27	207	982	
32. Walnut NWR		207			10	2			1			18			44	858	
33. Saylorville Res.	1	308	7			2			2		39	2			139	681	
34. Des Moines		300	1		1		2			1	2	70		18	149	529	
35. Fort Dodge		99			102				14		9			2	22	214	
36. Jamaica	1	335			87				1		4				55	756	
37. Sac County		20							28						66	200	
38. Ida County		66			66				1		2	15		23	55	330	
39. Monona County		22					4							14	36	87	
Subtotal	4	4,445	8	1	289	12	8	0	80	57	179	1,671	37	174	1,474	10,990	0
SOUTHERN THIRD																	
40. Rathbun	1	98			72	1	2		6	6	94	65		1	183	1,100	
41. Red Rock Res.		31				1					7	2		2	7	139	
42. Lucas		142				20					24				30	190	
43. Lamoni		127			1	14			10		200	57			170	196	
44. Montgomery Cc	4	319			82	15	3		20	35	1	26		9	59	950	
Subtotal	5	717	0	0	155	51	5	0	36	41	326	150	0	12	449	2,575	0
TOTAL																	
	66	12,075	229	288	7,784	110	67	8	429	187	781	2,990	53	666	4,265	30,617	68
	Ha Sp	Da Ey Ju	La Lo	Sn Bu	Re Wi Bl	Me Sp	Ru Bl	Br Bl	Co Gr	Br He Co	Pu Fi	Ho Fi	Co Re	Pl Si	Am Go	Ho Sp	Eu Tr Sp

While the number of Golden-crowned Kinglets was average, there were a surprising number of ruby-crowned reports. The 7 birds were a 10-year high and generally were well-documented. Two half-hardy song birds, Hermit Thrush and Brown Thrasher, were at 10-year highs, although 4 and 6 birds respectively may not seem like it. Robins were present in average numbers.

Both shrike species were found in average numbers, generally keeping to their designated sections of the state. European Starling was more plentiful than usual, but not at record levels, with 55,467 birds tallied.

When I saw that three warbler species had been found, I thought I was looking at a southwestern Iowa Big Day list. Three species in late December in Iowa is incredible, especially when one of the species, Nashville Warbler, appeared at two localities, albeit one in Nebraska. A Common Yellowthroat was photographed at Forney Lake in the Glenwood circle, and Yellow-rumped Warblers were common, with 21 counted, about twice the 10-year average.

If you thought the warblers were good, how about the Summer Tanager? More later on this sterling Nebraska sighting.

In general, native sparrows were present in poor numbers. Exceptions were American Tree, Swamp, and White-throated sparrows. White-crowned and Harris' sparrows were particularly scarce, as were Field Sparrows; only one of the latter was found where usually we come up with about 10 for the state.

Blackbirds were uncommon, although species diversity was good, including Yellow-headed, Brewer's, and an amazing 61 Great-tailed Grackles. This is the fourth year the latter species has occurred, but the only time more than one bird was counted. These birds were in the Iowa part of the Omaha circle near the IPL ponds. The five Yellow-headed Blackbirds was a 10-year high; four were at Omaha.

The House Finch sets a new 10-year high each year, but it still has not been 10 years since the first CBC record in 1985-86. Here is a set of numbers that might interest you (Table 3):

Table 3. House Finches and House Sparrows found on Iowa Christmas Bird Counts, 1985-1994.

Year	House Finch	House Sparrow
1985-86	2	51,218
1986-87	13	43,888
1987-88	33	48,821
1988-89	215	63,605
1989-90	378	69,502
1990-91	762	58,199
1991-92	1,042	48,941
1992-93	2,024	39,964
1993-94	2,988	29,936

The only "winter finches" were two Red Crossbills and two Evening Grosbeaks. Pine Siskin numbers were rather low, about half their 10-year average, while Purple Finches were in average numbers.

Not only House Finches, but now Eurasian Tree Sparrows, are attempting to take over Iowa. Fully 68 of the latter were reported, three times the previous best total,

and only the eighth year for the species. Most were at Burlington as expected, but stragglers occurred north in the Mississippi Valley to Muscatine.

UNCOMMON SPECIES

I must note here that documentation was generally very good, with only one really rare bird not accepted, a reported Northern Gannet. The documentation had some inconsistencies, and I was not convinced, but I can pass the buck as the bird was seen on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River; maybe the Illinois Records Committee will disagree with me. Speaking of disputes, Pete Petersen redocumented a Brewer's Blackbird from last year which brought the Davenport total to 90 species. I generally do not have the time, money, or energy to contact observers who have submitted details which I find too sketchy, but I welcome feedback on my decisions nevertheless.

This year was a bonanza for rarities (Table 4). No fewer than five all-time new Iowa CBC species were found, although one was not found in Iowa. This was a Summer Tanager which was present at the Bellevue, Nebraska, feeder of Kathleen Crawford-Rose from 20 November to 27 December. It was seen by many and photographed. Also rather amazing was the occurrence of Nashville Warbler, but even more amazing was its occurrence at two locations. No fewer than three were in some large spruces on the Nebraska side of the Missouri River in Omaha, and in Iowa one was found at Hancher Auditorium in Iowa City, but apparently was not seen subsequently. With a Pine Warbler there last year, let's take bets on what shows up next year! Back to the West, a Common Yellowthroat popped out of some cattails to be photographed by Doug Rose on the Glenwood count (yes, a tape recorder was involved). Finally, two new gulls were documented. Rarest was a California Gull at Saylorville, a first-year bird which was present for a while, but surprising was the occurrence of Lesser Black-backed Gulls at two "inland" locations, Iowa City and Cedar Rapids. Both, especially the Cedar Rapids bird, were seen by many observers.

Almost in the same category were an intriguing two Mew Gulls; single birds at Red Rock Reservoir and Davenport. The latter bird was in Illinois. There is only one other CBC record, Iowa's first state record, in 1982 at Davenport.

Other rare birds included a Black Scoter at Spirit Lake, for only the fourth CBC record, an Osprey on the Illinois side of the Clinton count, a Franklin's Gull in breeding plumage (continuing a strange recent phenomenon) at Saylorville, the fourth CBC record, Bonaparte's Gulls at Cedar Rapids and Saylorville, and two Marsh Wrens at opposite sides of the state at Sioux City and Muscatine for only the third time on the CBC.

Table 4. Species found on three or fewer Christmas Bird Counts, 1993-94. Number of individuals seen is in parentheses.

Tundra Swan	Yellow River Forest (7), Dubuque (14)
Mute Swan	Davenport (1)
Swan sp.	Clinton (1), Ames (1)
Ross' Goose	DeSoto N.W.R. (1), Shenandoah (3)
Green-winged Teal	Clinton (1), Omaha (16), Shenandoah (1)
Greater Scaup	Clinton (1), Davenport (1), Saylorville Res. (1)
Oldsquaw	Clinton (4), Rathbun Res. (1)
Black Scoter	Spirit Lake (1)
Ruddy Duck	Clinton (5), Spirit Lake (2)
Osprey	Clinton (1)
Golden Eagle	Yellow River Forest (2)
Merlin	Clinton (1), Shenandoah (1), Rathbun Res. (1)
Peregrine Falcon	Davenport (3)
Gray Partridge	Lost Nation (11)
Ruffed Grouse	Decorah (1)
Franklin's Gull	Saylorville Res. (1)
Bonaparte's Gull	Cedar Rapids (1), Saylorville Res. (1)
Mew Gull	Davenport (1), Red Rock Res. (1)
California Gull	Saylorville Res. (1),
Thayer's Gull	Iowa City (1), Saylorville Res. (2), Red Rock Res. (1)
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Cedar Rapids (1), Iowa City (1)
gull sp.	Dubuque (15), Omaha (5), Marshalltown (4)
Marsh Wren	Davenport (1), Sioux City (1)
Gray Catbird	Burlington (1)
Northern Mockingbird	Burlington (1), Montgomery County (1)
Nashville Warbler	Omaha (3), Iowa City (1)
Common Yellowthroat	Glenwood (1)
Summer Tanager	Omaha (1)
Chipping Sparrow	DeSoto N.W.R. (1)
Field Sparrow	Davenport (1)
Vesper Sparrow	Oakville (1)
Lincoln's Sparrow	Muscatine (1), Lost Nation (1)
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Omaha (4), Montgomery County (1)
Great-tailed Grackle	Omaha (61)
Blackbird sp.	DeSoto N.W.R. (200), Shenandoah (10)
Red Crossbill	Davenport (2)
Evening Grosbeak	Dubuque (1), Clinton (1)

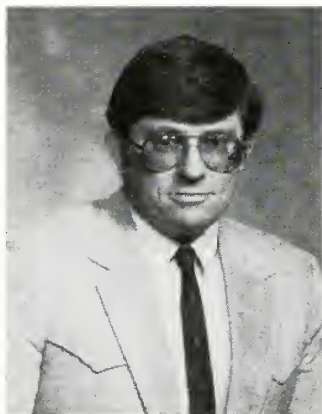
P. O. Box, 300, Tabor, Iowa 51653

FIELD REPORTS--WINTER 1993-94

W. ROSS SILCOCK

WEATHER

December began with snow cover over most of the northern half of Iowa, accumulating to about 50 inches at Decorah, but temperatures were about average and the major reservoirs were generally open. However in January temperatures took a dive, with bitterly cold weather the general rule. Reservoirs froze, forcing waterfowl out, and most other semi-hardy species departed also. Temperatures reached -36F at Decorah, -23F in Sioux Center, and as low as -18F in Iowa City. Despite a short upswing in early February temperatures dove again until the week of 14 February. Early February temperatures were the lowest of the winter, with -26F in Sioux Center. A warmup occurred after 18 February, when many early migrants appeared, noticeably on 20 February.



GENERAL PATTERNS

Most waterbirds departed in midwinter; this year that meant the period from late December to 19 February. The generally heavy snow cover in the northern half of Iowa may have moved some raptors southward and out of the state, including Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel, and Loggerhead Shrike, none of which were common this winter. Half-hardy indicator species, notably Carolina Wren, seemed to fare surprisingly well; a few wrens survived in Iowa City and Johnston, and further southeastward "many survived the severe winter" (PCP). Again there were almost no winter finches, although three Evening Grosbeaks appeared.

UNUSUAL SPECIES

Notable occurrences this winter include the increasing number of winter sightings of Peregrine Falcon, probably a result of reintroduction efforts nationwide. One of the more intriguing records was a Greater Prairie-Chicken at Cherokee. Gulls continue to increase in variety; this year notable records were of Mew and California gulls, with the only slightly-less-rare Lesser Black-backed and Great Black-backed gulls also recorded. Of interest was the appearance of Marsh Wrens at opposite sides of the state, but the best record was probably the Nashville Warbler at Iowa City, although most years a January record of Common Yellowthroat would take the award.

*=documented; m.ob.=many observers; CBC=Christmas Bird Count.

Common Loon: The last report was 1 on 11 Dec at Red Rock Res. (SJD).

Pied-billed Grebe: The only report was the loner that wintered on Cedar L., Cedar Rapids (DLD).

Horned Grebe: 1 wintered on the detention basin at Dubuque (JLF, DLD), providing only the third February record for the state. A late migrant was at Pleasant Creek S.P., Linn Co., 7 Dec (DLD).

American White Pelican: The pattern of recent years of a few birds wintering at reservoir spillways continued, with at least 3 of 5 at Red Rock Res. surviving (JSi). Other late birds were at Davenport through 26 Dec (PCP), and Riverton through 18 Dec (SJD).

Double-crested Cormorant: Only 1 was known to winter, that at Cedar L. (DLD). Other late birds were at Lock and Dam 14 on 31 Dec (JLF), and at Red Rock Res. 24 Dec (AMJ).

Great Blue Heron: A few birds wintered along the Mississippi R. north to Davenport (PCP, CRF); 3 were in Appanoose Co. as late as 2 Jan (RLC), and 1 was too far north for 19 Feb at Algona (Chris Schmidt fide MCK).

Tundra Swan: Reports in December away from the Mississippi were of an adult at Bays Branch 13 Dec (SJD), and 2 adults at Pleasant Creek S.P. through 4 Dec (THK, MPr, DLD). Up to 14 lingered as late as 15 Dec at Dubuque (CBC).

Trumpeter Swan: Two marked birds from the northwestern Wisconsin flock were in Marshall Co. 9 Dec (MPr), and an unmarked family group of 2 adults and a young bird were at L. Manawa 13 Dec (SJD*, TEB*). Unmarked birds may be from self-introduced breeding populations in South Dakota and Nebraska.

Mute Swan: An immature wintering at the detention basin in Dubuque 3 Feb may have been a wild bird, but the status of an adult at Lock and Dam 14 (JLF) is problematic; adult birds from wild flocks tend to be sedentary. The status of free-flying immatures anywhere in Iowa is questionable, although such birds on the upper Mississippi are likely to be dispersers from wild flocks.

Greater White-fronted Goose: The last fall birds were seen on CBCs; the first arrivals in spring were 29 at Rathbun Res. on 19 Feb (RLC), as well as an unexpected 2 at Mason City the same day (RGo). These were followed by 7 as far north as Clay County on 24 Feb (LAS).

Snow Goose: Single individuals wintered on aerated ponds at Cobb P., Ida Co. (PE), with Canada Geese below Saylorville Res. until 12 Feb (DT), and at Terra L., Johnston (BE). The latter bird ignored a resident "blue" goose there. Considered late for a flock were 24 at Saylorville Res. 19 Dec (SJD). First arrivals were 50 in Warren Co. 19 Feb (AMJ) and 500 at Fomey L. 20 Feb (TEB).

Ross' Goose: The only reports were from CBCs.

Canada Goose: Best wintering counts were 8,017 at Bays Branch (RLC) and 1,200 at Terra L. (BE). Spring arrival of migrants was 19 Feb, when several flocks were seen as far north as Kossuth Co. (MCK). A flock of 47 which flew over Fairfield 3 Jan (DCP) may have been a local foraging flock.

Wood Duck: Up to 4 wintered on Cedar L. (JLF, DLD). A male was at Mason City as late as 16 Dec (RGo), and early arrivals were at Rathbun Res. 19 Feb (RLC).

Green-winged Teal: A male wintered on Cedar L. (DLD). Considered late were 3 at Davenport 16 Dec (PCP), and first arrivals were 17 at Rathbun Res. 19 Feb (RLC).

American Black Duck: Not unexpected were 4 wintering on Terra L. (BE, DT), and up to 4 on Cedar L. (DLD, JSc), but 10 as far northwest as Snyder Bend in Woodbury Co. 2 Jan (BFH) were unusual.

Mallard: The best count was the 6,000 at Big Creek L. 23 Dec (SJD). Flocks winter wherever water remains open through winter, including 200-300 at Rock Valley (JV), 300 at Milford (Marty Eby fide SJD), and 1,000 at Snyder Bend (BFH).

Northern Pintail: Singles wintered as far north and west as Rock Valley (JV) and Cobb P. (PE). Early arrivals were in Fremont Co., where 350 were at Riverton (WRS) and 25 at Fomey L. 20 Feb (TEB).

Northern Shoveler: A group of 8 at Terra L. dwindled to 4 then disappeared 16 Jan (BE, DT). Wintering records are rare.

Gadwall: 1 lasted until 5 Feb at Terra L. (BE), while 2 were still at Snyder Bend 29 Dec (BFH). Early migrants were 2 in Clay Co. 19 Feb (THK), and 35 at Fomey L. 20 Feb (TEB).

American Wigeon: A rare midwinter report was 1 at Rathbun Res. 16 Jan (RLC). Early arrivals were 6 there 19 Feb (RLC), and 25 at Fomey L. 20 Feb (TEB).

Canvasback: No large numbers or wintering birds were reported. Latest were on CBCs, and earliest arrival was at Fomey L. 20 Feb (TEB).

Redhead: Individuals lingered to 2 Jan as far northwest as Snyder Bend (BFH) and, less unexpectedly, at Camanche (PCP). Early arrivals were 2 at Terra L. 19 Feb (DT). No wintering birds were detected.

Ring-necked Duck: At least one, a female, wintered at Terra L. (DT), and was joined by migrants 19 Feb (DT, BE). Another was at Cedar L. as late as 9 Jan (JSc). Early arrivals were in force: 129 at Rathbun Res. 19 Feb (RLC), and a surprising 850 at Riverton 20 Feb (WRS).

Greater Scaup: A female at Terra L. 29 Jan (BE) was unexpected; more usual were single females lingering at Big Creek L. through 23 Dec (SJD) and at Davenport 10 Feb (PCP). No spring influx was reported.

Lesser Scaup: A male and 2 females wintered at Terra L. (BE, DT). Few were reported; a female lingered at Big Creek L. until 23 Dec (SJD), and the first arrival was 1 at Terra L. 19 Feb (DT).

Oldsquaw: A good total of 10 birds was reported, all in December. Pleasant Creek S.P. had 2 or 3 birds 1-4 Dec (MPr, THK, JLF, CEEd), a single was at Rathbun Res. 18 Dec (CBC), 4 were at Clinton 22 Dec (CBC), and 2 were at Fort Madison 26-27 Dec (CRF).

- Black Scoter:** 3 of this rare species appeared: 2 at Cedar L. 1-7 Dec (MPR, m.ob.) were seen by many, and a single was at L. Okoboji 13-18 Dec (DCH*, LAS*, CBC)[2nd latest]. All were reported as females.
- White-winged Scoter:** A single at Pleasant Creek S. P. 1-7 Dec. was reported as an immature (MPR), an immature female (DLD), and a male (JLF). Were these different birds? The only other report was an immature at Fort Madison 26-27 Dec (CRF).
- Common Goldeneye:** Midwinter reports were from Cedar L. 9 Jan (JSc) and Red Rock Res. dam, where a female was seen 31 Jan (AMJ). Best count was a meager 273 at Saylorville Res. 11 Dec (BE).
- Bufflehead:** The latest in fall were on CBCs; first spring arrivals were 3 at Rathbun Res. 19 Feb (RLC) and 6 at Fomey L. 20 Feb (TEB).
- Hooded Merganser:** Up to 8 wintered on Cedar L. (DLD, JSc), and a female which appeared at Terra L. on 5 Feb remained at least to 29 Feb (BE).
- Common Merganser:** At least 1 wintered at Pleasant Creek S.P. (DLD). No wintering concentrations were reported. High fall counts were 5,500 at Saylorville Res. 11 Dec (BE), and 2,000 at Red Rock Res. 24 Dec (RLC). First spring arrivals were 4 at Clear L. 18 Feb (THK), and 5 flyovers in Kossuth Co. 19 Feb (MCK). Many moved into Fremont Co. 20 Feb, with 600 at Fomey L. (TEB) and 3,500 at Riverton (WRS).
- Red-breasted Merganser:** A female was at Saylorville Res. 21 Dec (SJD); this and CBC reports were the latest. No early spring migrants were detected. This species is rare in winter.
- Ruddy Duck:** Latest were the few reported on CBCs; the only spring report was of 1 at Fomey L. 20 Feb (TEB).
- Bald Eagle:** This species has become so common in Iowa in winter that it is showing up on yard lists in Iowa City (THK) and Mason City (CJF). The best count apart from CBCs was 40 below Red Rock Res. 27 Feb (JSi).
- Northern Harrier:** A midwinter report was of a female in Lucas Co. 30 Jan (JSi); no such reports were received from northern Iowa.
- Sharp-shinned Hawk:** The usual renegade feeder raiders were reported at Algona during December and January and on 12 Feb (MCK), and at Johnston through the period (BE, DT).
- Cooper's Hawk:** Yard birds were at Iowa City 2 Dec (THK) and at Mason City through the period (CJF, RGo); both were thought to be females.
- Northern Goshawk:** At least 8 birds were reported in addition to CBCs. A cooperative adult was seen by many through the period at Kent P. near Iowa City (RPI*), and another was in the Shell Rock R greenbelt at Mason City 9-30 Jan (RGo, m.ob.). Two adults apparently wintered at Stephens St. Forest in Lucas Co. (JSi). Single adults were at Deweys Pasture 24 Feb (LAS) and Saylorville Res. 12 Feb (DT), an immature was in Appanoose Co. 17 Dec (RLC), and a single was at Davenport 24 Feb (BBI).
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** Only 1 wintering bird was reported, in Van Buren County (JSi, JLF). An immature at Iowa City may have wintered; it was seen 5 Feb (JSc). Are the Iowa breeding birds resident? Most unusual was a report of 1 which hit a screen door at Hull, Sioux Co., was rehabilitated, and released (Marty Eby, fide SJD). This species is rare in western Iowa.
- Red-tailed Hawk:** The large CBC count of 104 at Decorah was ascribed to a high population of meadow voles; one bird was a Harlan's (DC). Another Harlan's was in Sioux Co 21 Jan (JV), and a dark-phase bird was in Woodbury Co. 5 Feb (BFH).
- Rough-legged Hawk:** Observers in Sioux (JV) and Marshall (MPR) counties. saw none, while another in Appanoose Co. (RLC) thought numbers were "very low".
- Golden Eagle:** Few were reported; other than CBCs, the only one was a subadult in Cerro Gordo Co. 3 Dec (CuN).
- American Kestrel:** Only three reports were received; two indicated low numbers in Sioux (JV) and Cerro Gordo (CuN) counties.
- Merlin:** In addition to CBCs, several were found. Furthest east were birds at the Cedar Rapids airport 4 Dec (JLF) and in Lucas Co. 13 Feb (JSi). All others were in the extreme west: a male at Farragut in Fremont Co. 18 Dec (SJD), a female at Moorehead P., Ida Co., 5-6 Jan (PE), a male in Ida Co. 5 Feb (PE), singles in Sioux Co. 21 Dec and 6 Jan (JV), and 1 in Plymouth Co. 24 Jan (BFH).
- Peregrine Falcon:** In addition to CBCs, there were three reports of this increasing species. An adult was frequenting the bridge area near Polk City 11 Dec (KGr), an immature was near Algona 22 Jan (MCK), and 1 was seen in Cedar Rapids 17-18 Feb (JSc*). None were marked.
- Prairie Falcon:** Fewer than usual were detected; none were reported on CBCs. There were three reports of what may have been 2 birds. One was 3 mi. west of Algona in Kossuth Co. 13 Feb (MCK); Kenne noted that this was a good falcon sighting; he left the bird rather than vice versa! Another was just south of Burt in Kossuth Co. 22 Feb (DBI*). Another was in Grundy Co. 26 Jan (MPR*).

- Gray Partridge:** The population appears to be at a low level. In addition to the low CBC count, only two reports were received, both from Cerro Gordo Co. The largest group seen was 8 on 18 Feb (CuN), and 3 were seen 30 Jan (AMJ).
- Ring-necked Pheasant:** Considered "doing well" in Sioux Co. (JV), and "average" in Cerro Gordo Co. (CuN).
- Ruffed Grouse:** This species also appears to be at a low ebb. Only 1 was found on CBCs, and the only other report was from the introduced population in Lucas Co., where 1 was at the Whitebreast Unit of Stephens S.F. 30 Jan (JSi).
- Greater Prairie-Chicken:** A highlight of this winter was the appearance of a single male bird at Cherokee (DBi*, photo THK, m.ob.). The bird appeared 4 Jan and was still present at the end of the period. This is the second consecutive year that one has been found in northwestern Iowa (IBL 63 48), although it would be nice if more than one bird could show up. The bird was considered wild by all observers.
- Wild Turkey:** This species is maintaining good numbers statewide. Highest numbers reported were of flocks up to 70 along the Big Sioux R. in Sioux Co., where it is considered "very conspicuous" (JV). It also appears as a yard bird, although numbers were down at a Johnston feeder (DT).
- Northern Bobwhite:** The only report was from northwestern Iowa, where 10 were at Snyder Bend 2 Jan (BFH). This is another gallinaceous species whose population is not exactly booming.
- American Coot:** The last bird to leave Terra L. was seen 24 Dec (DT), although 5 were still at Snyder Bend 2 Jan (BFH), and 1 was at Cedar L. 9 Jan (JSc). None were reported as wintering however. First spring birds were 20 at Fomey L. 20 Feb (TEB).
- Sandhill Crane:** None were reported, including CBCs, in contrast to recent winters.
- Killdeer:** Late birds were at Des Moines 26 Dec (AMJ), and at Follets in Clinton Co., 2 Jan (PCP). Another, probably wintering, was seen north of Burlington on 19 Jan (CRF). One at Decorah 21 Feb was described as "foolishly early" (DC); what could be said for 1 at Coralville Res. 19 Feb (THK)?
- Common Snipe:** A few were wintering "as usual" near Burlington (CRF), but 1 at the Des Moines airport 18 Jan, the "coldest day of the year" (RIC), had to be waiting for a flight to New Zealand. Rather late for the number were 9 at Cone M., Louisa Co., 31 Dec (THK).
- American Woodcock:** None were detected before the end of the period; usually a few arrive in late February.
- Franklin's Gull:** Last was an adult in breeding plumage at Saylorville Res. 21 Dec (SJD), and earliest were 6 at Burlington 17 Feb (CRF).
- Mew Gull:** There are few records of this gull in Iowa, but more are being found as identification skills improve. Two reports were received this winter. A first-winter bird was seen on the Red Rock Res. CBC 19 Dec (AMJ*, RWi) and also 21 Dec (JLF*). The dark plumage and contrasting tail band led Johnson and Widner to suggest this bird might have been an example of the race *canus* (see Tove, *Birding* 25:386), although this race is generally restricted to the Atlantic coast. The second report was of an adult at Saylorville Res. 20 Dec (SJD*). The latter bird was identified as an example of the American race *brachyrhynchus* based on the amount of white in the outerwings.
- Ring-billed Gull:** Petersen noted that a few stayed through the period except for cold snaps, a normal situation. Best fall count was 30,000 at Saylorville Res. through 12 Dec (SJD). Unusual was 1 in a Mason City parking lot 16 Feb (RGo).
- California Gull:** Reports of this species also are increasing along with our identification skills. A good description with excellent sketches of an immature "possible" California Gull at Saylorville Res. 6 Dec (RPi*) was received; the tentative identification was supported by a second report 19 Dec (SJD*). Final confirmation is in the hands of the Records Committee, however.
- Herring Gull:** Petersen's observation for ring-bills applies to this species also. No concentrations were reported; they apparently "left early" in Marion Co. (AMJ).
- Thayer's Gull:** A total of 5 first-winter birds and 1 adult were reported for this now regular species. The only CBC reports were a first-year bird at Iowa City (RPi*) and 2 first-year birds at Saylorville, both on 19 Dec; up to 3 were at Saylorville Res. 3-20 Dec (SJD), and another was in Lee Co. 18-27 Feb (CRF). An adult was at Red Rock Res. dam 24 Dec (RLC*, AMJ*).
- Glaucous Gull:** This, our other regular "white-winged" gull was represented by 6 birds. Earliest was 1 at Saylorville Res. 5 Dec (BE) which remained through the CBC there and was joined by a second bird 10 Dec (SJD); 1 remained until 23 Dec (MPr). Latest, and the only "spring" report, was an adult in Lee Co. 16 Feb (CRF). Adults are rarely seen in Iowa. Singles were at Coralville Res. 11-19 Dec, including the CBC (RPi*, THK), L. Manawa 13 Dec (TEB), and West L. Okoboji 18 Dec for the CBC there (LAS*).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Two adults were discovered, both, surprisingly, "inland". One was at Coralville Res. 11-19 Dec (RPi*, CJB*, JLF*), including the CBC, and the other was at Des Moines 21 Dec (RIC*). The latter observer noted that the "arm-flap" gull-flushing technique worked so well, that the bird disappeared from sight before he could see it in flight.

Great Black-backed Gull: The only report was of a first-winter bird at Keokuk 25 Dec (RIC*). There are few Iowa records.

Rock Dove: See CBCs.

Ringed Turtle Dove: 1 was at an Indianola feeder throughout February (AMJ). No guesses were made as to its provenance.

Mourning Dove: The most northerly wintering birds were at feeders; 2 were at Sioux Center (JV), and 18 at Ames (JJD). What fun, feeding 18 Mourning Doves all winter!

Eastern Screech-Owl: Two red-phase birds were near Bonaparte, Van Buren Co., 5 Dec (CRF). Another was a road kill in Fremont Co. 22 Jan (WRS).

Great Horned Owl: An "arctic" bird appeared at Mason City 2 Dec (RGo); could it be the same bird seen there last year? The prize for the first nest of the year goes to a pair, also at Mason City, 30 Jan (CuN, AMJ).

Snowy Owl: This was a fairly good "Snowy Owl year", although individual birds tended to be elusive. At least 12 birds were located, including 4 on CBCs. One in Allamakee Co. 5 Dec was photographed for the local paper (DC). CBC birds were reported from Shenandoah and Mason City, both on 18 Dec, although the latter bird was present 15-20 Dec (photo CJF). Two reported on the Keokuk CBC 26 Dec were present for about 2 weeks (RIC), and another CBC bird was in Howard Co. 31 Dec. One was at the Spencer airport 7-8 Jan (LAS), and 2, a male and female (PCP), were at Walcott in Scott Co. 19 Jan through 1 Feb (PCP, JSc). Finally, at least 2 were in Emmet Co. in January (MCK), and 1 was west of Algona 11 Feb (MCK). One present in Sioux Co. in November was not seen again (JV).

Barred Owl: Yet another yard bird: 1 at Iowa City 21 Jan (JSc).

Long-eared Owl: Best roost count was 16 in Fremont Co. on the CBC 15 Dec; next was 7 at Big Creek 23 Dec (MPR). An unusual report was of 5 roosting in a cottonwood at Stone Park, Plymouth Co. (BFH).

Short-eared Owl: Few were reported. Apart from CBCs, 2 were at Saylorville Res. 16 Jan (DT), 1 was at Big Creek 12 Dec (SJD), and 1 was in Guthrie Co. 23 Dec (SJD).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Wintering birds were reported statewide; the only multiple report was of 2 in Hardin Co. 16 Feb (MPR). Despite searching, none were located in Polk Co. (BE), usually a good spot.

Belted Kingfisher: The most northerly birds were at Mason City 4 Jan (CJF) and in Story Co. 23 Jan (HZa).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Wintering birds were found north to Guthrie (PE), Polk (BE), and Linn (DLD) counties.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Several pairs resident along the Big Sioux R. in Sioux Co. (JV) are our northwesternmost representatives.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Unusual so far north was 1 which survived into January at a Decorah feeder (DC). Except for 1 at a Polk Co. feeder (DT), other midwinter birds were in southeastern Iowa.

Downy Woodpecker: See CBCs.

Hairy Woodpecker: See CBCs.

Northern Flicker: Wintering birds were reported north to Sioux Co. (JV). One at a Mason City feeder lasted at least until 20 Dec (CJE).

Pileated Woodpecker: See CBCs.

Horned Lark: High counts were not spectacular, although this species was considered common; 224 were in Polk Co. 12 Feb (BE), and 200 were in Cerro Gordo Co. 5 Jan (CJF).

Blue Jay: See CBCs.

American Crow: The winter roost at Ames contained 10,000 birds (JJD).

Black-capped Chickadee: See CBCs.

Tufted Titmouse: See CBCs.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: This was an above-average winter for this species. See CBC data. Most feeders statewide had 1 or 2. At Sioux Center, few wintered after the "November invasion" (JV).

White-breasted Nuthatch: See CBCs.

Brown Creeper: Wintering birds were found statewide, including Mason City feeders (CJF, RGo), with the best count 3 at Stone P. 9 Jan (BFH).

Carolina Wren: This species is of interest in a winter as cold as this one. Wintering birds survived north and west to Polk Co., where 1 was at a Johnston feeder throughout (DT). No reports were received from the rest of the state. None were found in Fremont Co. 20 Feb in previously reliable places (WRS).

Winter Wren: 1 in Allamakee Co. on 15 Dec (DC) was rather far north for the date. See CBCs.

- Marsh Wren:** The only reports were on CBCs, including 1 in Illinois, but the other was of 1 in cattails with open water at Brown's L. in Woodbury Co. 2 Jan (BLI*), a surprising date. [ties record latest]
The water is kept open by power plant effluent.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Midwinter birds were north to Stone P., where 2 were seen 9 Jan (BFH), but none were seen at Sioux Center after December (JV).
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Only 1 was reported apart from CBCs, a single at Kent P. 18 Dec (CEd*)
- Eastern Bluebird:** Except for a single bird in Appanoose Co. 13 Feb (RLC), none were reported. See CBCs. Apparently most left the state during midwinter.
- Townsend's Solitaire:** A late report was of 1 at Saylorville Res. 5 Dec 1992 (Darwin Koenig fide JJD). None were reported this winter.
- Hermit Thrush:** Several were reported on CBCs, but only two midwinter reports were received. Most surprising was 1 which lasted at an Algona feeder until January eating suet and sunflowers, but then disappeared (MCK). One in Warren Co. 16 Jan (JSi) was a little less unexpected.
- American Robin:** No large wintering flocks were reported, although small numbers wintered statewide; possibly 100 wintered in Ames (JJD), and returning birds were widely noted, as expected, in late February.
- Varied Thrush:** The only bird detected was in Iowa City, a male at the Scheib feeder seen by many from 15 Jan through the period (JSc*, m.ob.). This is par for an Iowa winter.
- Gray Catbird:** Latest was 1 at Burlington until 15 Dec, CBC day (CRF) for the only winter-period report.
- Northern Mockingbird:** While this species may pop up anywhere in midwinter, most unusual was 1 at Charles City, Floyd Co. 12 Jan at the Obermeier feeder (photo CJF, CuN). One was at Iowa City 7 Feb (JLF) for a midwinter report, and another was in Des Moines Co. 9 Feb (CRF).
- Brown Thrasher:** Rare in midwinter, especially away from southeastern Iowa, an unexpected report was of 1 at the Savage feeder in Marshalltown 8 Jan. Less surprising was 1 in Des Moines Co. 7 Jan (CRF).
- Cedar Waxwing:** The largest flock was 130 in Warren Co. 16 Jan (JSi). There were few reports, most from southern Iowa, although 8 were in Cerro Gordo Co. 27 Feb, where it was said to be scarce (CuN).
- Northern Shrike:** About 12 reports apart from CBCs were received. The southernmost was in Polk Co., an adult, 8 Jan and 12 Feb (DT). Several were seen in Cherokee Co. during the period (DBi). Strangely, 1 was singing in Woodbury Co. 2 Jan (BFH).
- Loggerhead Shrike:** The only report apart from CBCs was of 2 in Fremont Co. 6 Feb (WRS). Most apparently departed during midwinter.
- European Starling:** See CBCs.
- Nashville Warbler:** Incredible was the report from the Iowa City CBC of 1 at Hancher Auditorium 19 Dec (JLF*, JSc*) [record latest]. This was the site of the Pine Warbler report last December. The latest previous date for Iowa was 6 Nov 1977. Note that 3 were seen by many beside the Missouri R. in Omaha in mid December (see CBC).
- Yellow-rumped Warbler:** No midwinter or late February reports were received. See CBCs.
- Common Yellowthroat:** Yes, a 3-warbler winter! Speculations, anyone? Two were found, both on CBCs. One was at Fomey L. on the amazing date of 2 Jan (photo DoR) [record latest], and the other was at Montrose 26 Dec (FLM*) [2nd latest]. The previous late date for Iowa was 20 Dec 1984.
- Northern Cardinal:** This species is still slightly unusual in midwinter in northwestern Iowa, from where the only reports came. Through the period, 2-15 were in a Mason City yard (CJF), and 3 were at Estherville feeders (DHe). Wintering birds in the northwest occur only along the Big Sioux and Rock rivers, with none at Sioux Center (JV). One described as "ivory-colored" resides at Fairfield (DCP).
- Lazuli Bunting:** Yes, you read correctly. However this is a belated report of 1 photographed at a Lake City feeder 7 Jul (MEI*). There are very few Iowa reports of relatively pure Lazulis, as was this bird.
- Rufous-sided Towhee:** See CBCs.
- American Tree Sparrow:** An amazing 1,220 counted in Appanoose Co. 27 Feb. were considered "probably close to a migration peak" (RLC). According to Robbins and Easterla, "Birds of Missouri", most leave Missouri by the first half of March. A 15-year low in Sioux Co. was blamed on floodwaters scouring out seed-bearing weeds (JV).
- Chipping Sparrow:** The only report was 1 which had been at the Visitor Center feeder at DeSoto N.W.R. "for weeks" and was counted on the CBC 19 Dec (MSh*). Also received was a belated report of 1 at a Johnston feeder 13 Nov (DT).
- Field Sparrow:** The only report was from Davenport 19 Dec (CBC). This sparrow occasionally winters in southeastern Iowa.

- Fox Sparrow:** An unusual northerly wintering report was 1 at a Sioux Center feeder throughout the period (JV). Most wintering birds are in southeastern Iowa. A late bird was in Cerro Gordo Co. 15 Dec (CJF). See CBCs.
- Song Sparrow:** Wintering birds were reported from Linn (DLD), Johnson (JSc) and Warren (JSi, AMJ) counties, none unexpected locations. See CBCs.
- Lincoln's Sparrow:** The only wintering bird was at Burlington 31 Dec and 23 Jan (CRF). This species winters occasionally in southeastern Iowa. Other late birds were at Muscatine 26 Dec and Lost Nation 20 Dec (CBC).
- Swamp Sparrow:** Unusually late dates for so far north were singles at Snyder Bend 2 Jan (BFH) and Mason City 13-18 Dec (CJF).
- White throated Sparrow:** This species has been more widespread in recent winters in Iowa. This year northerly reports were of 1 with House Sparrows at a Mason City feeder 22 Dec (CJF) and another at a Hardin Co. feeder 1-5 Dec (MPr). See CBCs.
- White-crowned Sparrow:** Numbers are down for this species; only 3 singles were reported, all in southeastern Iowa. Wintering birds were at Seymour (CSc) and in Warren Co. (AMJ), and another was at Oxford in Johnson Co. (RPi). See CBCs.
- Harris' Sparrow:** Numbers were thought to be down 60% from last year in Cass Co. (MAP), and only 1 was seen in nearby Ida Co. (PE). Easterly reports were of wintering birds in Polk Co. (BE) and Warren Co. (AMJ).
- Dark-eyed Junco:** Two 'Oregon' juncos wintered at Mason City (CJF). Numbers were down in Appanoose Co. (RLC).
- Lapland Longspur:** This species generally was common this year (BE, CuN), with reports statewide. The 2,000 in Franklin Co. 20 Feb (THK, RIC) was a high count.
- Snow Bunting:** Also very conspicuous this winter, many observers considered it common. Most southerly was a single bird in Appanoose Co. 27 Feb, considered 'late' (RLC). High counts were mostly from northern Iowa, where 800 were in Cerro Gordo Co. 5 Jan (CJF), and 500 in Clay Co. 23 Dec (LAS).
- Red-winged Blackbird:** There were only 2 midwinter reports: 30 were in Marshall Co. 23 Jan (MPr) and 40 in Warren Co. 31 Jan (AMJ). Spring migrants appeared 20 Feb in Appanoose (RLC) and Johnson (DLD) counties and as far north as Mason City 22 Feb (CJF).
- Eastern Meadowlark:** A midwinter report of 1 at Walcott 23 Jan was based on very dark plumage and no yellow cheek (PCP). Experienced observers may differentiate this species from Western by coloration, but light conditions can complicate this exercise. Eastern Meadowlark probably occurs in winter in very small numbers in southeastern and extreme southern Iowa. The first spring report was 20 Feb in Johnson Co. (DLD).
- Meadowlark sp.:** Few midwinter reports were received. The best count was 9 on 3 Jan in Ida Co. (PE).
- Yellow headed Blackbird:** The only report was of 4 at DeSoto N.W.R. 19 Dec (CBC). Latest reports of this species have come most often from the Missouri Valley, usually with mixed blackbird flocks.
- Rusty Blackbird:** Two northerly winter reports of singles were 24 Jan at Decorah (DC) and 11 Feb in Emmet Co. (DeH). Spring arrivals were noted 19 Feb, with 4 in Palo Alto Co. (THK) and 20 Feb, with 110 in Appanoose Co. (RLC) and 8 at Ventura M., Cerro Gordo Co. (THK). One with a deformed upper mandible struggled through the winter at a Polk Co. feeder (DT).
- Brewer's Blackbird:** The only report apart from the several reported on CBCs was of 4 at Snyder Bend 27 Dec (Jack Holloway fide JJD).
- Great-tailed Grackle:** This species is being noted later in fall each year, and in greater numbers, in southwestern Iowa. A large group of 48 was at the IPL Pond, Pottawattamie Co. 13 Dec (SJD), and even more, 61, were there for the Omaha CBC 18 Dec [3rd latest].
- Common Grackle:** Midwinter reports are usually of singles or small groups at feeders. Best such count was of 8 wintering in Ames (JJD), and 3 were in Plymouth Co. 24 Jan (BFH). Birds disappeared from Mason City 29 Dec (CJF) and Sioux Co. 15 Jan (JV).
- Brown-headed Cowbird:** No midwinter reports were received. First in spring were 120 in Johnson Co. 20 Feb (DLD). This species is rare in midwinter.
- Purple Finch:** Scattered birds were reported statewide. High counts were 40 at Hooper Game Area, Warren Co., 29 Jan (JSi) and 12 in Fremont Co. 20 Feb, (TEB).
- House Finch:** This abundant species occurs statewide. High counts were on CBCs. A Mason City feeder had 30-55 throughout the period (RGo).
- Red Crossbill:** There were two reports of 3 birds. The Davenport CBC had 2 on 15 Dec, and 1 appeared at the Sunde feeder in Estherville 1 Feb (DeH). It was there until 27 Feb when it hit a window and died (JLF)(specimen to ISU).

Common Redpoll: Low numbers were reported from the northern half of the state, although the best counts were from the next-to-southernmost reporting site, Johnson Co., where 25-32 were found (JLF, m.ob.). The only report further south was of 8 wintering in Des Moines Co (CRF). A flock of 25 was in Emmet Co. 4 Dec (DeH), and 10-12 were at Ames 12 Jan and 23 Feb (HZa). One observer tantalizingly mentioned a "very pale" individual at Sioux City (BFH).

Pine Siskin: This species was widespread but not in large numbers this winter. Best counts were only 15 in Polk Co. 13 Feb (DT) and 12 at a Sioux Center feeder throughout the period (JV).

American Goldfinch: Two observers in southwestern Iowa (MTi, MAP) indicated low numbers, but see CBCs.

Evening Grosbeak: With the few reports of this species in recent years, the three seen this winter provided some hope for better things to come. One was at a feeder at Seymour, Wayne Co. throughout (CSc), and single birds were reported in northeastern Iowa on the Dubuque and Clinton CBCs. Maybe next year?

House Sparrow: See CBCs.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: This species is expanding its range, at least in winter, northward along the Mississippi River from its north Burlington origin point. They were found on CBCs north to Muscatine, with as many as 60 at Burlington. Movement is occurring to the south of Burlington also, where birds were seen in the Wever area (CRF). An unexpected record was of a male at the Geyer feeder near Oxford from around the end of December through the period (JSc*, RPi, m.ob.).

CONTRIBUTORS

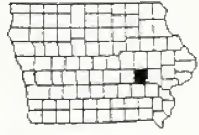
Carl J. Bendorf (CJB), Iowa City; Dick Bierman (DBi), Cherokee; Brian Blevins (BBi), Davenport; Tanya E. Bray (TEB), Bellevue NE; Dennis Carter (DC), Decorah; Robert I. Cecil (RIC), Des Moines; Ray L. Cummins (RLC), Centerville; David L. Dankert (DLD), Cedar Rapids; James J. Dinsmore (JJD), Ames; Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), Raleigh, NC; Dan C. Dorrance (DCD), Davenport; Chris Edwards (CED), North Liberty; Mary Ellis (MEI), Lake City; Bery Engebretsen (BE), Des Moines; Peter Ernzen (PE), Ida Grove; Carolyn J. Fischer (CJF), Mason City; Charles R. Fuller (CRF), Burlington; James L. Fuller (JLF), Iowa City; Rita Goranson (RGo), Mason City; Kevin Griggs (KGr), Madrid; Douglas C. Harr (DCH), Larchwood; Dennis Hendrickson (DHe), Estherville; Bill F. Huser (BFH), South Sioux City NE; Ann M. Johnson (AMJ), Norwalk; Matthew C. Kenne (MCK), Algona; Thomas H. Kent (THK), Iowa City; Bob Livermore (BLi), Sioux City; Francis L. Moore (FLM), Waterloo; Curt Nelson (CuN), Mason City; Marietta A. Petersen (MAP), Walnut; Peter C. Petersen (PCP), Davenport; Randy Pinkston (RPi), Iowa City; Diane C. Porter (DCP), Fairfield; Mark Proescholdt (MPr), Liscomb; Doug Rose (DoR), Glenwood; James Scheib (JSc), Iowa City; Lee A. Schoenewe (LAS), Spencer; Charlotte Scott (CSc), Seymour; Mindy Sheets (MSH), Missouri Valley; W. Ross Silcock (WRS), Tabor; Jim Sinclair (JSi), Indianola; Dennis Thompson (DT), Johnston; Marie Tiemann (MTi), Shenandoah; John Van Dyk (JV), Sioux Center; Russ Widner (RWi), Marshalltown; Hank Zaletel (HZa), Nevada.

Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653

BLACK-NECKED STILT AT AMANA LAKE

THOMAS H. KENT

On 20 May 1993, Tom Staudt and I went to Amana Lake in Iowa County to look for shorebirds because we had heard that the water level was low with extensive mudflats. We immediately spotted two large, long-legged shorebirds in the shallow water. The birds were huge compared to nearby Semipalmated Plovers. The body size was about same as nearby grackles, but their long, bright pink legs made them tower over the grackles. The stilts were black above and white below with a small white patch over eye and white forehead. Their bills were long, thin, and black. The black on back of head extended down neck to back and was more prominent on lower neck. They fed by leaning down and picking at the surface.



The birds were seen later in the day by Randy Pinkston, and one was photographed the next morning by Tim Schantz as it flew away to the north (Figure 1).



Fig.1. Black-necked Stilt at Amana Lake, 21 May 1993. Photo by Tim Schantz.

There are three other accepted records of this species in Iowa. The first were two photographed at Union Slough N.W.R. in Kossuth County on 1-2 June 1984 (Kent and Silcock 1985). The second was at Snyder Bend in Woodbury County from 6 to 14 April 1991 (Huser 1992). The third was photographed at Riverton Area in Fremont County on 12 May 1992 (*IBL* 62:77, 63:69, Johnson and Allen 1994). There are six old, inadequately substantiated records and two unlabeled specimens (Dinsmore et al. 1984), which are likely correct considering the ease of identification and likelihood of occurrence.

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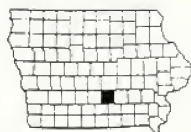
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211 Richards Street, Iowa City, IA 52246

JUVENILE SABINE'S GULL AT RED ROCK RESERVOIR

MARK PROESCHOLDT

Tim Schantz first found this bird on 21 October 1993 on the south side of Red Rock and east of the Whitebreast Area. He called the birdline and spread the word. On the morning of 23 October 1993, my mother Beth and I located the gull near where it had been seen for the previous two days.



This small gull was by itself about 150 yards offshore when we first saw it. It was a sunny day, and the gull's brownish back and sides with the brownish color extending up to the back of the head were easy to see. A Herring Gull started diving at it, and the Sabine's Gull flew away. In flight, the Sabine's Gull's striking pattern of dark-white-dark triangles on its upper wings stood out from even a very long distance as it flew north across the lake. It was much smaller than the gull chasing it. We did not notice the tail and its pattern and colors. We watched the gull for quite a while and then lost sight of it.

Ann Johnson drove into the area then. After searching for several minutes, we found the gull flying toward us fairly low over the water. All three of us followed its flight with our scopes for quite a while and had good looks at its striking wing pattern. Then the gull flew a long ways away toward the dam and then to the north side where we lost sight of it. The bird was not seen again as far as I know.

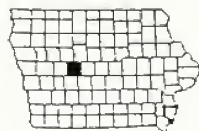
This was the eleventh sighting of a Sabine's Gull in Iowa and the first sighting of a Sabine's Gull for Red Rock Reservoir. Four sightings of Sabine's Gull were before 1982, and six other sightings were from 1983 to 1991. The most recent sighting of Sabine's Gull was of an adult and a juvenile together near Davenport and Bettendorf on 13-14 October 1991 (Pinkston, *Iowa Bird Life* 62:114-116, 1992).

Box 65, Liscomb, IA 50148

LATE BREEDING VIRGINIA RAIL AT SNAKE CREEK MARSH

JIM SINCLAIR

On 29 August 1993 at approximately 1 p.m. Gene and Eloise Armstrong and I stopped beside a small opening in the vegetation at Snake Creek Marsh in Greene County. Immediately an adult Virginia Rail strolled into the opening and began to calmly pick at the surface of the water. As we were congratulating ourselves on this sight, a small, all-black rail appeared in the opening. Before our astonished eyes, both birds then disappeared into the denser vegetation.



Considering the late date, the small size (approximately one third the size of the Virginia Rail), and the all-black coloring of the second rail, we were, to a person, convinced we had just seen a Black Rail in Iowa. We had just begun to discuss the field marks of the 'Black Rail', which included scant white speckling on the upper back, when the Virginia Rail reappeared, followed quickly by the black rail. As we watched, the Virginia Rail captured a large worm, approached the smaller rail with its prize, and then fed the worm to the 'black rail'. Once again both birds vanished into

the dense vegetation leaving three birders not only amazed but also aghast at what would surely have been a misidentification of a Black Rail in Iowa.

The Virginia Rail is an uncommon summer resident in Iowa with several nest records including one in Greene County. Although information on the breeding habits of rails is extremely difficult to gather, Virginia Rails are thought to produce two broods a year, one in June and one in July. The downy young are black and begin to molt into juvenal plumage within a week of hatching, possibly explaining the faint speckling on our bird's back. In any case, a downy young on 29 August would make this brood at least a month late and certainly caused both excitement and despair.

The Virginia Rail is an uncommon summer resident in Iowa but it has been reported nesting in Greene County. Previous studies in Iowa indicate that they usually begin nesting late May or June (Tanner, W. D., and G. O. Hendrickson, *Iowa Bird Life* 24:65-70, 1954; Kaufmann, G. W. *Canad. Field-Nat.* 103:270-282, 1989). Although they might produce two broods in a summer, it is more likely that this young bird was from a very late nest, perhaps delayed because of the flooding in 1993. The downy young are black and begin to molt into juvenal plumage within a week of hatching, possibly explaining the faint speckling on our bird's back. Whatever the cause, a downy young on 29 August represents a very late nest and certainly caused both excitement and despair.

810 North B. Street, Indianola, IA 50125

I.O.U. BUSINESS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Booneville, Saturday, 14 November 1993

HILDA A. SICKELS, SECRETARY

Present: Ann Barker (presiding,) Jim Fuller, Hilda Sickels, Pam Allen, Eloise Armstrong, Rick Hollis, Ann Johnson, Matt Kenne, and Bud Gode.

The meeting was held at the home of Eugene and Eloise Armstrong. The board is grateful to the Armstrongs for their hospitality. The minutes for the 3 April 1993 board meeting were approved as published (motion by Allen, seconded by Armstrong). Treasurer Allen advised the board that dues notices will be mailed next week.

Committee Reports

Records Barker reported for Tom Kent that review and archival of old records is proceeding well. Completion of the review is expected in 1994. The committee's budget request is \$200 for current records and \$200 for review and archival of old records, the same amounts that were budgeted for the committee in 1993. The committee nominated Ross Silcock for a six-year term ending in 2000. It was moved (Hollis, seconded by Gode) that the nomination be approved. Motion carried.

Membership: Jim Sinclair's second term has expired, as has Ann Johnson's first. Both positions need to be filled. The committee has not met, and no budget request was received; the proposal is to keep the budget amount the same as for 1993. Information was again sent to feeder survey participants who requested it.

Publications: The committee met in September. Pete Petersen's term expired, and the committee selected John Fleckenstein as its chair. Harold White was nominated for a five-year term ending in 1998. It was moved (Allen, seconded by Fuller) that the nomination be approved. Motion carried. Budget

requests for the newsletter and *Iowa Bird Life* were reviewed; there was no change for the newsletter and only a slight increase for *Iowa Bird Life*.

Library/Historical: The committee has not met. The terms of Jim Sandrock and Darwin Koenig have expired and need to be filled.

Breeding Bird Atlas: The committee hopes to complete species accounts by the first of the year, with a rough draft of the publication to be ready by next fall. The University of Iowa Press continues to express interest in publication. The \$965 remaining in the B.B.A. account will be used this year. Specific information on costs and publication alternatives that was requested by the board is not yet available, but the committee will prepare it for the spring board meeting. The D.N.R. has submitted a grant proposal which, if approved, will defray some of the publication costs. No specific budget request was received, but such a request may be made during 1994. The board has indicated its general support of the project in the past and expects to provide a substantial part of the financial backing.

Big Day: No report. Budget amount remains proposed at \$25.

Education Booklet Promotion: Nearly 400 copies of the booklet have been sold as of September. A reprinting will almost certainly be necessary in 1994. The original cost was \$2800, with \$500 covered by I.C.E.C. The board agreed to budget \$2500 for a reprinting.

Spring Count The committee met in September and recommends to the board that the 1994 count be held on either Saturday or Sunday of the same weekend as the national count (second weekend in May), at the discretion of the county coordinator. Counts done on Saturday may be submitted to the national count; data from either day will be accepted in Iowa. Several board members expressed the feeling that we should follow the recommendation of the membership to hold the count on the same day as the national count. After discussion, it was moved (Gode, seconded by Allen) that the board leave the date as suggested by the membership for the day of the national count. Motion carried. The budget request is \$175. Allen suggested that an article be written for the newsletter to advise the membership of the board's decision.

Field trip: Flyers about upcoming trips have been sent to Audubon chapters in Iowa. The 1994 schedule includes trips at Mason City on 30 January, Cone Marsh on 9 April, Snake Creek Marsh on 25 September, and southwestern Iowa on 5 November. The idea of out-of state trips will be explored. The budget request is \$25.

Code of Ethics The committee is working with several members on the development of a code. The proposed code will be published in the newsletter. No budget request was received.

Nominating: A committee composed of Bob Cecil, chair, Diane Porter, and Francis Moore is preparing a slate for consideration at the spring meeting for the offices of Secretary and Treasurer and two board positions. No report was received.

Birdline The budget proposal is unchanged at \$300. A new answering machine was purchased (donated) by Jim Fuller. Contributions to the birdline cover phone line expenses but not the cost of a new machine. Discussion centered around soliciting more birdline contributions.

Old Business

Upcoming meetings: The spring 1994 meeting is set for Ames on 20-22 May. Jim Dinsmore would like to spend meeting fund money to bring in California Gnatcatcher expert Jon Atwood from Massachusetts for the banquet speaker. The board concurs. Possibilities for the fall 1994 meeting were discussed; south-central Iowa was preferred, but hosts are difficult to find. Ann Johnson will look into holding the meeting in Pella in late autumn. Pete Erzen is investigating the possibility of holding the spring 1995 meeting in Ida County. The fall 1995 meeting may be in Davenport.

Rick Hollis introduced the idea of providing a meeting attendance scholarship for a student from the local community to attend each I.O.U. spring and fall meeting. After discussion, it was moved (Hollis, seconded by Gode) that the I.O.U. provide a scholarship to cover registration, meals and membership for one year to a student in the community where the meeting is held, with the student selected by the local host. Motion carried.

New Business

The possibility of having a student membership category was discussed. Allen will review the dues structure and bring any recommendations to the spring board meeting. The board will consider the issue for possible recommendation to the membership.

The proposed budget for 1994 was distributed and discussed. The budget, attached, was approved (motion by Fuller, seconded by Armstrong.)

Two new D.N.R. projects have been proposed for which our support is sought. A Watchable Wildlife Guide describing habitat areas around the state is being written. We could support the project financially, donate technical expertise, or help with marketing. In addition, neotropical migrant birds

are being studied in northeastern Iowa, with participation by The Nature Conservancy. After discussion, it was moved (Gode, seconded by Fuller) that we provide verbal support to both projects and that we offer the technical expertise of our membership if needed. Motion carried.

I.O.U. has used its display at one or more Bald Eagle days for the last 2 or 3 years. In the future we may be charged a fee to do this. Following discussion, it was moved (Armstrong, seconded by Hollis) that any such fee should be paid. Motion carried.

The spring Board of Directors meeting will be held in Iowa City after the Cone Marsh field trip on 9 April.

Iowa Bird Life back issues will be available at the spring meeting at a reduced price.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45.

Iowa City, Saturday, 9 April 1994

ANN JOHNSON FOR HILDA SICKELS

Present: Ann Barker (presiding), Jim Fuller, Pam Allen, Rick Hollis, Matt Kenne, Ann Johnson, Bud Gode, Tom Kent, Reid Allen, and Karole Fuller.

The meeting was held in the home of Jim and Karole Fuller after a field trip to Cone Marsh. The board is grateful to the Fullers for their gracious hospitality and delicious lunch. Barker advised the board that Hilda Sickels had recently resigned from her position of secretary due to the serious illness of her husband. The minutes for the 14 November 1993 board meeting were approved as distributed with one correction. Treasurer Pam Allen distributed final financial statements for 1993, which show an excess of support and revenues over expenses of \$6,188.47.

Committee Reports

Records: Tom Kent reported that the past year has been quite productive. Nearly all records for 1993 have been reviewed, and work has begun on those for 1994. The committee has almost finished reviewing 250 old records and re-reviewing 20-30 old records. The committee files have been organized and filed in triplicate. The photo file has been completely reorganized and preserved; samples were distributed. In addition, all field reports dating back to 1970 were filed by species.

Membership: The committee has nominated the following individuals:

- Ann Johnson, for a second term ending in 1995;
- Beth Brown, for a term ending in 1995;
- Diane Porter, for a second term ending in 1996; and
- Laura Jackson, for a term ending in 1996.

It was moved (Allen, seconded by Gode) that all nominees be approved. Motion carried. The committee would like to have a few extra newsletters printed for distribution with membership brochures to those interested in becoming I.O.U. members. The board agreed.

Publications: The committee has not met. A nomination is needed for Ann Barker's term, which expires in 1994. Following discussion about *Iowa Bird Life*, it was decided that the board will recommend to the committee that the reproduction quality of photos in the journal be improved.

Library-Historical: The committee has not met. Expired terms of Jim Sandroek and Darwin Koenig, and the expiring term of Tom Kent need to be filled. It was suggested that we inquire of the membership at the spring meeting whether anyone has an interest in the committee.

Breeding Bird Atlas: A timetable has been established so that the final layout will be done by 15 December. Publication alternatives are being explored. A \$12,000 commitment from the Department of Natural Resources must be spent this fiscal year.

Big Day: No report.

Education Booklet Promotion: No report.

Spring Count: The count will be held this year on 14 May, and will be held each year on the same day as the national count. It was suggested that more effort be put toward the spring count and that the purpose and financial aspects of the Big Day be reconsidered, since participation has dwindled.

Field Trips: Dates for upcoming trips are: 25 September to Snake Creek Marsh for and 12 November to southwestern Iowa.

Code of Ethics: A draft has been rewritten. It will be mailed to the membership with the next issue of *Iowa Bird Life* and voted on at the spring meeting.

Nominating: Bob Cecil (chair), Diane Porter, and Francis Moore have submitted the following slate for consideration at the spring meeting:

- Secretary: Mary Kuhlman
- Treasurer: Pam Allen

Board of Directors (two positions): Tim Schantz, Beth Brown, Maridel Jackson, Harold White. After discussion of the rather confusing mechanics of our election process, it was moved (Gode, seconded by Johnson) to ask Tom Kent to draft a constitutional amendment to clarify the election process, to be presented to the board at Ames. Motion carried. The board will meet after the business meeting.

Birdline: Our report is now a feature of the City Line in Waterloo and Cedar Rapids. The arrangement is a 6-month contract, for which we receive \$15 per month. Jim Fuller has purchased both answering machines now in use. The number of calls continues to increase, but reports have decreased. To encourage reports, it was suggested that a signup sheet be placed at the spring meeting to solicit volunteers from different parts of the state to call in with a general report each Sunday evening. Pam Allen is investigating an 800 number for the birdline.

Old Business

Upcoming meetings: The spring meeting is set for Ames. The fall 1994 meeting is being planned for Pella 28-29 October. Ann Johnson is in charge of arrangements. Pete Erzen has been planning the spring 1995 meeting for Ida Grove. Plans are forming to hold the fall 1995 meeting in Davenport. It was moved (Fuller, seconded by Allen) to hold the 1995 meetings in Ida Grove (spring) and Davenport (fall). Motion carried.

Pam Allen has investigated the possibility of having window decals made. These would be removable plastic in a 3" by 3" size. They are available in lots of 100 for \$240 or 1000 for \$440. We will try to determine whether there is sufficient interest at the spring meeting.

New Business

Pam Allen studied the question of whether a student membership category should be established; she recommends that this not be done. She also suggested that there is no need to increase membership dues for 1995. It was moved (Allen, seconded by Gode) to recommend to the membership that dues remain at the current levels for 1995. Motion passed.

Dr. Myrle Burk, long-time member and former officer of the I.O.U. who died in 1992, left a large gift to the Iowa Academy of Sciences for an ornithology scholarship fund. After discussion, it was moved (Allen, seconded by Johnson) that we provide a one-year complimentary membership to recipients of the Myrle Burk award. Motion carried.

Ann Johnson has begun work on a book on birding areas of Iowa. She would like the board's approval to contact authors of birding areas articles published in *Iowa Bird Life*. It was the board's consensus that this is not be necessary since the articles will be rewritten.

Announcements

Jim Dinsmore will have back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* for sale at the spring meeting at the bargain price of 50 cents per issue. Members are to let him know which issues they would like to purchase.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

TREASURERS REPORT--1993, PAM ALLEN, TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1993

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash in bank (Note 1)	16,145.87	
Cash in bank, (Note 2)	506.35	
Certif. of Deposit (Note 3)	22,738.50	
Certif. of Deposit (Note 4)	3,395.00	
Interest on CD (Note 5)	852.69	
Interest on CD (Note 6)	85.68	
Total Current Assets, 31 Dec. 1993		\$43,724.09
Assets as of 31 December 1992	37,535.62	
1993 addition	6,188.47	
Total liabilities, fund balance, and 1993 addition		\$43,724.09

FUND BALANCE BREAKDOWN

Birdathon (Note 7)	1,512.05	
Book royalties	2,859.34	
Endowment Fund (Note 7)	4,577.45	
Project Fund (Note 7)	341.40	
Endowment Fund Total		9,290.24

Life Memberships		7,027.50
Birdline Fund		350.88
Meeting Fund		2,025.77
Breeding Bird Atlas		1,009.24
Operating Fund		24,020.46

Total Fund Balance, 31 December 1993 \$43,724.09

SUPPORT, REVENUES, AND EXPENSES 1993

SUPPORT (Contributions and gifts)

Breeding Bird Atlas	40.50	
Endowment Fund	190.33	
Iowa Bird Line	95.00	
Project Fund	46.77	
Unspecified contributions	373.00	
Total contributions and gifts		745.60

REVENUES

Membership/subscriptions

Regular member	5,475.00	
First family member	1,557.00	
Second family member	396.00	
Third+ member	22.00	
Life member	225.00	
Institutional subscribers	780.00	
Total membership revenue (see note 8)		8,455.00

Sales

I.O.U. materials	253.17	
Educational Booklets	1,426.00	
Postage	368.55	
Printing donation-ICEC	500.00	
Iowa Bird Life back issues	60.00	
Total sales revenue		2,607.72

Interest income	1,165.40	
Meeting income	401.00	

TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES \$13,374.72

EXPENSES

Publications Committee

Iowa Bird Life	3,999.30	
I.O.U. News	1,025.59	
Total Publications Committee		5,024.89
Committee/officer expenses		
Education Committee	594.37	

Iowa Bird Line	208.04	
Breeding Bird Atlas	48.85	
Membership Committee	35.00	
Records Committee	692.49	
Spring Bird Count	92.43	
Treasurer	490.18	
Total other organization expenses	2,161.36	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$7,186.25
EXCESS SUPPORT AND REVENUES OVER EXPENSES		\$6,188.47

Note 1. Norwest Bank, Cedar Falls, Iowa (checking account)

Note 2. First National Bank, Ames, Iowa (IBL Account)

Note 3. Twelve-month Certificate of Deposit, maturing 26 June 1994

Note 4. Three-month Certificate of Deposit, maturing 26 March 1994

Note 5. Interest earned on \$22,738.50 C.D. at 31 December 1993

Note 6. Interest earned on \$3,395.00 C.D. at 31 December 1993

Note 7. All Birdathon funds collected are allocated as follows: 75% to the Endowment Fund and 25% to the Project Fund; \$187.10 collected in 1993 and allocated accordingly.

Note 8. Membership revenue recorded in 1993 includes dues payments for 1993 and future membership years.

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

1992 AND 1993 MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

MEMBERSHIP CLASS	1992	1993
Regular Member	350	342
First Family Member	97	101
Second Family Member	99	100
Third+ Family Member	14	13
Free Member	10	10
Honorary Member	2	2
Institutional Subscriber	55	54
Life Member (fully paid)	39	44
Life Member (partially paid)	4	2
Total membership	670	668

